



Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

14 February 2024

Meeting No. 135

Members:

J Ferguson OAM (Presiding Member)

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

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Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held at the OCA Boardroom, Port Augusta
14 February 2024 at 10:06am

Present:

J Ferguson OAM (Presiding Member), L Day, W Fennell and A Triggs
with N Sylvanius, and T Vaughan ASM joining via Microsoft Teams (OCA Members).
M Howard (Director, OCA) and J Greatbatch (Executive Officer, OCA).

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Presiding Member welcomed everyone to meeting 135 of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA).

No apologies have been received.

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	Director, Operation Flinders Foundation Inc
Member Sylvanius	President, Beltana Progress Association Member, World Heritage Community Reference Group Treasurer, Flinders Ranges Tourism Operators Association Executive
Member Triggs	



Member Vaughan	CE, Royal Flying Doctor Service Central Operations Board Member, Regional Development Australia Far North
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4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2023, Meeting No. 133 were circulated.

All Members agreed that the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority meeting held on 5 December 2023, meeting 133 as circulated to Members, be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Carried.

4.2 The minutes of the electronic meeting held from 16 to 18 January 2024, meeting 134 as circulated to Members, be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

All Members agreed that the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority meeting held from 16 to 18 January 2024, meeting 134 as circulated to Members, be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Carried.

4.3 Business arising from minutes.

4.3.1 The Director continues to partner with the Royal Flying Doctor Service to deliver high speed public wi-fi across Outback SA. The proof of concept is underway.

4.3.2 The Presiding Member will provide an update on regional road funding during the Presiding Member’s report therefore this item can be removed from the action list.

4.3.3 The Presiding Member will discuss making the procurement process more efficient for the Authority with the Chief Executive, Department for Infrastructure and Transport at an upcoming meeting. This item can be removed from the action list.

4.3.4 The Small Projects Funding Policy and Procedures and the Sponsorship Policy and Procedures were distributed for a four week consultation period from 12 December 2023 to 15 January 2024. This item can be removed from the action list.

4.3.5 The Presiding Member and Director are in the process of organising a meeting with the Leigh Creek community therefore this item can be removed from the action list.

4.3.6 The Small Projects Funding Policy and Procedures and the Sponsorship Policy and Procedures were endorsed by the Authority during an electronic meeting held from 16 to 18 January 2024. Associations have been emailed copies of both policies along with application forms and notified that the application



process for both Small Projects and Sponsorship funding is open and closes at the end of March 2024. This item can be removed from the action list.

5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

6. OCA BUSINESS

6.1 Business Conduct Policy (Ref. N24-01/02)

The Presiding Member referred to the Authority's Business Conduct Policy that was reviewed at an earlier workshop. The Policy will be updated as discussed during the workshop and provided to the Authority to endorse out of session.

6.2 Leigh Creek Update (Ref. N24 – 02/02)

The Director provided Members with an update on Leigh Creek. A community meeting will be held in the coming weeks and will be attended by the Director and Community Development Officer. It is the Director's intention to clear any misunderstanding on the role of the Taskforce, the Outback Communities Authority and the community with the transformation process.

The Director has progressed the recruitment process for a Community Partnerships Coordinator (CPC), similar to the Community Development Officer (CDO) role. The current CDO's role will also be changed to a Community Partnerships Coordinator and one of the CPC's will be responsible for the Northern Flinders communities, including Leigh Creek.

The Director provided an update on the transfer of Leigh Creek assets. The Visitor Information Centre will be placed on the open market for sale.

The Authority noted the Leigh Creek update.

6.3 Finance Report (Ref. N23-03/02)

The Director tabled the finance report as at 31 December 2023.

The Authority noted the finance report.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

8. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

The Presiding Member reported on activities since the December 2023 meeting which included:

- Attending a Royal Flying Doctor Service networking event
- Participating in several Regional Drought Resilience Plan meetings
- Assisting with preparations for the Minister's trip to the West Coast on 13 February
- Attending the Outback Roads meeting held at Port Augusta on 1 February
- Meeting with Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia along with the Director on 24 January

9. MEMBERS REPORT

Member Day reported on the following:

(AOFTA) Andamooka Opal Fields Tourism Association

- In January AOFTA erected DEM exclusion zone signs around the perimeter of the Andamooka Airstrip with DEM Mines Wardens, BHP Surveyors and AOFTA Airstrip project Manager.
- AOFTA is hosting an event on Saturday, 23rd March 2024, to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Andamooka Opal being presented to Queen Elizabeth.
- Applying to Regional Events Fund to host emerging annual tourism event - Opal Evolution and Developed annual tourism event Andamooka Opal Festival on the October long weekend. We have developed a four-year strategic plan for the festival to grow from a small-scale, community-driven event to a major regional attraction, showcasing diverse art forms, fostering community engagement, and promoting environmental awareness, Andamooka Opal, and opalised fossils.
- Opal Mining Industry – AOFTA are following closely the review in NSW – delving into the real economic impact of opal mining on our local, regional, state, and national fronts. Understanding tangible benefits for all of us.

(FRO) Flinders Ranges and Outback Tourism Marketing Committee

- January 2024 has seen a 275% increase from January 2023 in visitors to the region. Namely Innamincka and Andamooka have reported the most increase with a small number of domestic travellers and many international travellers mainly from Europe – Germany, Switzerland, and France.
- FRO 2024 CO-OP Campaign – Digital advertising packages for Flinders Ranges and Outback businesses.
- Focus on increase in ATDW listings in the region and assisting businesses who struggle to navigate the website.
- Caravan and Camping Show currently on in Adelaide. Attending from our region – (FROTOA) Flinders Ranges Tourism Operators Association, Station Stays, Aussie Travel Code.
- Regional Tourism Review is still underway with options being explored and considered. An update on the review will be provided by SATC early in the new financial year.

SAAL Kingoonya Landscape Group

- Drought resilience focuses on bringing "Are you Bogged Mate" workshops to communities within our region.

- Millers Creek Stickybeak day – date TBC (possibly last week in May). The day will showcase the work they have been doing on Ceres Tags and preparedness for drought, fire awareness, initiating “Are you Boggled Mate” and more.
- Buffel Grass LPF Strategic Buffel Grass Plan – 3 year project conducted through Alinjara Wilurarra Landscape Board with aspirations to drive Buffel to a state and national level – consistent recognition as both weeds of national significance and weeds issues of national significance.
- Buffel Busting BBQ – November in Andamooka - team up with local CFS fire training and combat Buffel in the area, all welcome.
- Feral Cats – BHP, Oz Minerals, Arid Recovery, actively trapping + seeking opportunities to collaborate with OCA in promotion of cat registrations in non-council areas.
- Oz Minerals have been a key sponsor of community events and aims for this to continue under the BHP umbrella.
- Not Kingoonya – but worth mentioning – late last year Friends of Innamincka Reserve conducted a roadside weed and bird survey along with roadside rubbish clean up – thank you to those involved and looking forward to reading the survey outcomes.
- Save The Date - Outback Ladies Muster in Hawker 14-15th October – Celebrating International Rural Women’s Day 2024
- FYI- SAAL working with Farmers 2 Founders and SA Drought Hub to support the adoption of AGTECH across the Pastoral Region. Expressions of interest close 12PM March 1st, 2024.

10. DIRECTORS REPORT

The Director reported on her activities and involvement since the December 2023 meeting which included:

- Meeting with Her Excellency, the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia along with the Presiding Member
- Progressing the Outback SA regional identity project
- Regular catch ups with Progress Associations along with the Presiding Member continue
- Progress Association’s 2022-23 independently audited financial reports have been provided for Members to review

11. CORRESPONDENCE REGISTER

The Director tabled the Correspondence Register for the period 15 November 2023 to 5 February 2024.

The OCA noted the Correspondence Register.

12. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

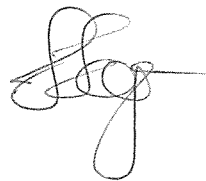
Nil.



13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The OCA noted that the next OCA meeting is scheduled for 20 March 2024 to be held via Microsoft Teams.

The meeting closed at 10:57 am.

 20/3/24