



Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

20 March 2024

Meeting No. 138

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 Sylvania, A Triggs, A Vaughan ASM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J Ferguson".

Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held via Microsoft Teams
20 March 2024 at 4:03pm

Participating:

J Ferguson OAM (Presiding Member), L Day, W Fennell,
N Sylvanius, A Triggs and T Vaughan ASM (OCA Members).

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

No apologies were 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 Board Member, 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
Member Sylvaniaus	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

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2024, Meeting No. 135 were circulated.

All Members agreed that the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority meeting held on 14 February 2024, meeting 135 as circulated to Members, be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Carried.

- 4.2 The minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2024, Meeting No. 136 were circulated.

All Members agreed that the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority meeting held on 28 February 2024, meeting 136 as circulated to Members, be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Carried.

- 4.3 The minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2024, Meeting No. 137 were circulated.

All Members agreed that the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority meeting held on 8 March 2024, meeting 137 as circulated to Members, be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Carried.

- 4.4 Business arising from minutes.

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

4.4.2 The Business Conduct Policy has been updated with the Business Conduct Member Induction and Procedures document requiring further amendments. This will be updated and provided to Members for endorsement at the April meeting therefore this item is ongoing.

4.4.3 Guy Sadler and Philip Gibb have been appointed authorised persons for the purpose of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* (the Act) without conditions. The status of Mark Sutton and Byron Gough as authorised persons under the Act has been rescinded. This item can be removed from the action list.

4.4.4 This item relates to item 4.4.2 and remains ongoing.

5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

6. OCA BUSINESS

- 6.1 Business Plan and Budget 2024/25 (Ref. N24-01/03)

The Presiding Member deferred this item to the April 2024 meeting.

6.2 Proposed Community Affairs Resourcing and Management Agreement Incorporating a Community Contribution for Andamooka, Iron Knob and Leigh Creek for 2024/25
(Ref. N24-02/03)

The Director confirmed Outback Communities Authority staff are consulting with the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association (APOMA), the Iron Knob Progress Association and Leigh Creek Residents and Ratepayer's Association to confirm their in-principle approval to enter into Community Affairs Resourcing and Management (CARM) agreements for 2024-25, similar to what is currently in place. Each of the current CARMs incorporate a community contribution and expire 30 June 2024.

Consultation on CARM agreements and community contributions is required before the Authority can make an informed decision about entering into agreements for 2024-25. Consultation will include a draft budget for each community.

If community feedback suggests general acceptance of the CARM agreements, a similar methodology to the current agreements will be adopted, being:

- A community contribution will apply from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.
- Property units remain the basis for determining the contributions attributable to a particular property.
- The dollar value of community contributions would be set having considered the consultation feedback, however it is expected to be the same amount as in 2023-24 for Andamooka and Iron Knob at \$400pa and \$360pa respectively. An amount is yet to be determined for Leigh Creek.
- The Authority's Concession's Policy on rebates, remissions, hardship and postponements would apply.

Ministerial approval for the dollar value of each community contribution is required.

Once consultation has been completed, a recommended report will be provided to the Authority for approval.

The Director tabled a consultation timeline and a community engagement strategy checklist for the Members.

The Outback Communities Authority notes the Office for the OCA will:

1. *Confirm in-principal approval from the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association Inc. to consider a new Community Affairs Resourcing and Management agreement incorporating a community contribution for 2024-25 and approve the consultation plan as tabled.*
2. *Confirm in-principal approval from the Iron Knob Progress Association Inc. to consider a new Community Affairs Resourcing and Management agreement incorporating a community contribution for 2024-25 and approve the consultation plan as tabled.*
3. *Confirm in-principal approval from the Leigh Creek Residents and Ratepayer's Association to consider a new Community Affairs Resourcing and Management*

agreement incorporating a community contribution for 2024-25 and approve the consultation plan as tabled.

**All Agreed.
Carried.**

7. URGENT BUSINESS

- 7.1 The Authority's May meeting will be held in Port Augusta with an in-community meeting deferred to later in the year.
- 7.2 The Authority discussed the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 4 projects that were submitted to the Department for Infrastructure and Transport for approval in 2023.

The Outback Communities Authority support the Director in progressing the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 4 project submission that was approved by the Authority at their September 2023 meeting in order for the full funding allocation assigned to the Outback Communities Authority to be approved by the Australian Government and to avoid any further delay.

**All Agreed.
Carried.**

- 7.3 The Director provided an update on the Outback Roads Consultative Forum nomination process. The Members agreed for the Director and Member Vaughan to review the community nominations and select the most appropriate representative.

8. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

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

- Attending the RFDS William Creek clinic opening on Friday 15 March 2024 that was also attended by the Hon Geoff Brock MP, Minister for Local Government, Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care the Hon Mark Butler MP, Arabana Traditional Owners Jeffrey and Kennethia, RFDS Central Operations Chief Executive Tony Vaughan and the Director.
- Participated in Outback SA Regional Drought Resilience Plan workshops at Copley and Parachilna.
- Attending a productive meeting with the Chief Executive, Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) and Andy Excell the Executive Director, Transport Strategy and Planning DIT to discuss current issues and required support moving forward.

9. MEMBERS REPORT

Member Day reported on the following activities:

- Participating in a panel of five people at a BHP hosted conference for International Women's Day, a great event that was well attended.
- Meeting with Melissa Horgan, Regional Coordinator – Far North, Department of Primary Industries and Regions which included a tour of Andamooka and an update on opal tourism.

- Preparing for an upcoming meeting with Minister for Tourism the Hon Zoe Bettison MP for an update on tourism and to officially open the new underground art gallery.
- Receiving an invitation to engage with a Vice-Regal visit to Andamooka in May 2024 as a Member of the Outback Communities Authority and Chair of the Andamooka Opal Fields Tourism Association.

Member Vaughan reported on the William Creek RFDS clinic opening, a successful event that was well attended and welcomed by William Creek community members.

Member Fennell attended the Major Economic Summit held in Port Augusta on Monday 26 February where the Premier presented on the Northern Water, Hydrogen, green steel and copper production projects and their impact on the Spencer Gulf communities. The Premier spoke to a packed-out room with standing room only for many in attendance. At the end of the Premier's presentation was a public Q&A session allowing the public to ask questions of the Premier.

Following the conference Member Fennell reviewed the *Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023* and the *Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Regulations 2024* to determine what direct financial benefits the Outback Communities Authority could expect to receive from renewable energy projects located within OCA areas and concluded that there was no clear pathway under the legislation for the OCA to receive such benefits.

Member Vaughan left the meeting at this time.

10. DIRECTORS REPORT

The Director provided a report on the following:

- Meeting with the audit team from the Auditor-General's Department along with the Executive Officer to prepare for the upcoming 2023-24 audit.
- Participated in a community meeting at Leigh Creek on 28 February to reiterate to the community that the Authority intends to work with and support both the Leigh Creek community and the Leigh Creek Residents and Ratepayers Association.
- Meeting with the Fowlers Bay community on Wednesday 13 March to discuss the WiFi project funded under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, Phase 3.
- Engaging Rawtech, an organisation recommended by Green Industries SA to address widespread waste management issues across Outback SA with an inception meeting held on Thursday 14 March.
- Attending the Planning and Land Use Services strategic planning day on 26 February which was useful.
- Attending the RFDS William Creek clinic official opening.
- Pleased to report the newly appointed Authorised Person retrieved a problem dog from Leigh Creek which has been rehomed with assistance from the Port Augusta City Council.
- The Field Officer Standards, Risk & Compliance has organised a vet services trip in conjunction with Adelaide University with cat microchipping to be subsidised by the OCA.

- Participating in Outback SA Regional Drought Resilience Plan workshops in Andamooka, William Creek, Marree, Copley and Parachilna. The Director also acknowledged the great work by Community Development Officer, Joe Calvert throughout this project and organising the community meetings.
- Approval process currently underway with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet for the Outback SA regional identity.
- Minister Brock will be opening the Leigh Creek Resource Recovery Centre on 23 April. The Director will forward an invitation to all Board Members to attend and a media release will be organised.
- Recruitment processes – the Finance Officer position has been filled by Kathryn Crisp who commenced on 18 March. Three other positions are also currently open for applications.
- Staff residential workshop organised for the end of May 2024. Staff will do some planning, team building and cultural awareness training at this time.
- Attending the Premier’s public sector awards on 8 March.
- Organising for the Board Members to be added to the newsletter distribution list.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for 17 April 2024 and will be held via Microsoft Teams.

The meeting closed at 5:24pm.



17 /04/2024