



Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

4 December 2024

Meeting No. 145

Members:

J Ferguson OAM (Presiding Member)

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

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

Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held at the OCA Boardroom, Port Augusta
4 December 2024 at 11:40am

Participating:

J Ferguson OAM (Presiding Member), W Fennell,
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 Members Day and Sylvania.

2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Standing OCA Declaration of Interest 2024-25	
Member	Declaration of Interest
Presiding Member	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 Sylvania	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 12 November 2024, Meeting No. 144 were circulated.

All Members agreed that the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority meeting held on 12 November 2024, meeting 144 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 has partnered with the Royal Flying Doctor Service to deliver high speed public WiFi across Outback SA. This item can be removed from the action list.
- 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 Board has been made aware of the change in the Authority's authorised person and the Dog and Cat Management Plan 2024-2029 has been updated to remove the reference to the Manager Policy and Community Affairs role. This item can be removed from the action list.

5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

6. OCA BUSINESS

- 6.1 Dog and Cat Management – Authorised Officer (Ref. N24-01/12)

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.

At the November 2024 meeting the Authority agreed 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 that was to be undertaken at Innamincka in late November 2024. Due to recent heavy rains the program had to be postponed. It is recommended that the approved appointment is amended to be applicable for the program duration only and not restricted to set dates.

The Outback Communities Authority 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 only.

**All Agreed.
Carried.**



6.2 2023-24 Audit (Ref. N24-02/12)

The Director tabled a copy of the 2023-24 audit management letter received from the Audit Office of South Australia on 15 November 2024 which has identified three areas where improved internal controls are recommended.

The findings and their ratings are:

1. Fixed assets

- 1.1 Fair value reviews of assets are not effective and the asset revaluation frequency may be too long. (Rating: Medium)
- 1.2 Assets above policy thresholds are expensed. (Rating: Medium)

2. Expenditure

- 2.1 Account coding of expenditure transactions is not consistent. (Rating: Low)

A response is due by 13 December 2024 and has been drafted for the Authority's consideration.

The Outback Communities Authority:

- *Notes the 2023-24 audit management letter from the Audit Office of South Australia.*
- *Approves for the drafted response to be provided by the deadline of 13 December 2024.*
- *Approves for the Presiding Member's electronic signature to be used on the response letter.*

**All Agreed.
Carried.**

6.3 Waste Management (Ref. N24-03/12)

The Director provided an update on the first stage of the development of a Waste Management Strategy for Outback SA and a proposal by for stage two based on recommendations by Rawtec.

The Director also made the Authority aware of the Environment Protection Authority's Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010 that is currently out for consultation.

The Outback Communities Authority:

- *Endorses proposed initiatives for stage two of the waste management strategy.*
- *Approves for the Director to respond to the Environment Protection Authority's consultation about its revised 'Waste to Resources' Policy.*

**All Agreed.
Carried.**

6.4 Leigh Creek (Ref. N24-04/12)

The Director provided an update on the Leigh Creek Transition project including issues requiring clarification, regional strategic assets that require ongoing funding and oversight, future developments and upgrades, town governance and the Leigh Creek budget.



The Outback Communities Authority:

- *Notes the Leigh Creek report.*
- *Notes the Leigh Creek budget will need to be considered and managed within the context of the OCA's budget.*

All Agreed.
Carried.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

8. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

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

- Attended a State Bushfire Committee meeting on 15 November that was also attended by the Hon. Dan Cregan MP.
- Attended a buffel grass ministerial roundtable on 15 November that was also attended by the Deputy Premier and the Hon. Joe Szakacs MP, the Hon. Nick Champion MP, the Hon. Tom Koutsantonis MP and the Hon. Clare Scriven MLC.
- Meeting with Minister Koutsantonis on 15 November.
- Attending the Progress Association Forum on 15, 16 November.
- Meeting with Minister Szakacs on 21 November.

9. MEMBER REPORTS

No Member Reports were provided.

10. DIRECTORS REPORT

The Director provided a report on the following activities:

- Referral made to Planning SA about what appears to be an illegal development at Innamincka.
- Regional signage project taking significantly longer due to more intensive than anticipated community consultation.
- Office to be closed on Monday 9 and morning of Tuesday 10 December so that staff can attend the DHUD Reward and Recognition Ceremony in Adelaide.
- RDA Far North have organised an Economic Development Forum at Iron Knob for the afternoon of December 10 – Director to present.
- Strategic Blueprint Meetings have taken considerable time.
- Consultation at Leigh Creek on Thursday 5 and Friday 6 December about town entrance concepts.
- Staff did a great job with the organisation of the Progress Association Forum at Port Augusta in mid-November.
- Machinery of Government changes continue to take time and energy – still glitches in accessing mandated DHUD systems.
- Staff planning days organised for May 28 – 30 2025.

11. CORRESPONDENCE REGISTER

The Members noted the Correspondence Register as at 15 November 2024.

12. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

Nil.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 29 January 2025 and will be held via Microsoft Teams.

The meeting closed at 12:46pm.



29/01/2025