



# Minutes

## Outback Communities Authority

19 June 2024

Meeting No. 141

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  
19 June 2024 at 8:51 am

### Participating:

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

### 1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

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	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



#### 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2024, Meeting No. 140 were circulated.

*All Members agreed that the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority meeting held on 22 May 2024, meeting 140 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 The Annual Business Plan and Budget 2024-25 has been provided to the Minister for Local Government therefore this item can be removed from the action list.

4.2.3 The approved Community Contribution Scheme Policy and Procedures has been uploaded to the website therefore this item can be removed from the action list.

4.2.4 The Director has been nominated as the Authority Member for the Flinders and Outback Bushfire Management Committee and the Field Officer Standards, Risk and Compliance as Deputy. This item can be removed from the action list.

4.2.5 The Director confirmed Small Project funding offers have been sent therefore this item can be removed from the action list.

#### 5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

#### 6. OCA BUSINESS

6.1 Declaration of Community Contribution for Andamooka 2024-25 (Ref. N24-01/06)

Since 2012 the Authority has levied a community contribution in Andamooka as a fair and equitable way of sharing the cost of improved local services.

The Director advised that the 2024-25 Community Affairs Resourcing and Management (CARM) agreement including a community contribution has been consulted on with the Andamooka community with consultation closing on 1 June 2024. One submission was received during the consultation period.

The Director advised the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association Inc. (APOMA) conducted its own consultation with the Andamooka community and did not require the Authority to be involved.



The 2024-25 community contribution is similar to the previous year's levy, being \$400.00 per property unit on rateable land in Andamooka.

*The Outback Communities Authority:*

1. *Will seek approval of the Minister for Local Government for a fixed charge of \$400.00 per annum per property unit for community contributions in Andamooka.*
2. *Subject to the Minister consenting to the fixed charge for Andamooka, execute the 2024-25 CARM agreement with Andamooka and on execution of the 2024-25 CARM agreement declares a community contribution for the land over:*
  - *The township of Andamooka, and*
  - *Those sites immediately adjacent the town of Andamooka not within the Andamooka Precious Stones Field or excluded from the operations of the Opal Mining Act 1995 held in Fee Simple, occupied under Crown Lease or Crown Licence, and*
  - *Those portions of Section 1500 Out of Hundreds (Andamooka) occupied under Crown Licence (known as White Dam).*
3. *Fixes a charge of \$400.00 per property unit on rateable land for the purposes of raising revenue for the provision of services and support to the community of Andamooka.*

*Pursuant to Section 181 (2) of the Local Government Act 1999 the community contribution be payable in four equal or approximately equal instalments as follows:*

- *first instalment payable in September 2024;*
- *second instalment payable in December 2024;*
- *third instalment payable in March 2025; and*
- *fourth instalment payable in June 2025.*

All Agreed.  
Carried.

## 6.2 Declaration of Community Contribution for Iron Knob 2024-25 (Ref. N24-02/06)

The Authority has levied a community contribution in Iron Knob since 2013 for the purposes of raising revenue for the provision of services to support the Iron Knob community and advised that the Iron Knob Progress Association (IKPA) on behalf of the Iron Knob community have requested that a community contribution continue in 2024-25 at \$360 pa.

Consultation on the 2024-25 Community Affairs Resourcing and Management agreement including a community contribution was finalised on 1 June 2024, with no submissions received.

*The Outback Communities Authority:*

1. *Will seek the approval of the Minister for Local Government to a fixed charge of \$360.00 per annum, per property unit for community contributions in Iron Knob.*



2. *Subject to the Minister consenting to the fixed charge for Iron Knob execute the 2024-25 Community Affairs Resourcing and Management (CARM) agreement with the Iron Knob Progress Association.*
3. *On execution of the 2024-25 CARM agreement declares a community contribution for the rateable land over the township of Iron Knob and fixes a charge of \$360.00 per property unit on rateable land for the purposes of raising revenue for the provision of services and support to the community of Iron Knob.*

*Pursuant to Section 181(2) of the Local Government Act 1999, the community contribution be payable in four equal or approximately equal instalments as follows:*

- *first instalment payable in September 2024;*
- *second instalment payable in December 2024;*
- *third instalment payable in March 2025; and*
- *fourth instalment payable in June 2025.*

**All Agreed.  
Carried.**

6.3 Declaration of Community Contribution for Leigh Creek 2024-25 (Ref. N24-03/06)

In accordance with legislation and to support Leigh Creek's transition to an independent township, it is intended for the Community Contribution to continue for 2024-25 as a fair and equitable way to share the cost of improved local services in Leigh Creek.

Consultation on the 2024-25 CARM agreement including a community contribution was finalised on 1 June 2024 with no submissions received.

The community contribution is intended to be similar to the 2023-24 levy however will be increased from \$560 to \$927 per annum per property unit including an annual household waste collection charge.

*The Outback Communities Authority:*

1. *Will seek the approval of the Minister for Local Government to a fixed charge of \$927.00 per annum, per property unit for community contributions in Leigh Creek.*
2. *Subject to the Minister consenting to the fixed charge for Leigh Creek execute the 2024-25 Community Affairs Resourcing and Management (CARM) agreement with the Leigh Creek Residents and Ratepayers Association.*
3. *On execution of the 2024-25 CARM agreement declares a community contribution for the rateable land over the township of Leigh Creek and fixes a charge of \$927.00 per property unit on rateable land for the purposes of raising revenue for the provision of services and support to the community of Leigh Creek.*



Pursuant to Section 181(2) of the Local Government Act 1999, the community contribution be payable in four equal or approximately equal instalments as follows:

- first instalment payable in September 2024;
- second instalment payable in December 2024;
- third instalment payable in March 2025; and
- fourth instalment payable in June 2025.

All Agreed.  
Carried.

6.4 CARM Agreements 2024-25 (Ref. N24-04/06)

As part of the annual CARM process, Progress Associations have submitted requests for 2024-25 CARM funding. The Director tabled the CARM requests for the Authority's consideration.

Staff will contact Associations who were not compliant with deadlines according to the CARM Policy and Procedures in 2023-24 to determine if any support is required. Due to the policy being new, the Authority has allowed some leniency for 2024-25 funding allocations however, there is no guarantee this will be repeated for subsequent years.

*The Outback Communities Authority approves the Community Affairs Resourcing and Management allocations for 2024-25 and request that staff follow up with communities that did not meet deadlines in 2023-24 to determine if additional support is required in order to meet all requirements for 2024-25.*

All Agreed.  
Carried.

6.5 Revised Public Consultation Policy and Procedures (Ref. N24-05/06)

The Director tabled a revised Public Consultation Policy and Procedures for the Authority's consideration. The document has been simplified in order to be clearer and more user friendly.

The Public Consultation Policy and Procedures will be released for consultation for a one month period.

*The Outback Communities Authority endorses the revised Public Consultation Policy and Procedures so that a one month period can be commenced.*

All Agreed.  
Carried.

6.6 Meeting Schedule 2024-25 (Ref. N24-06/06)

The Authority agreed to a 2024-25 meeting schedule. Meeting dates and where possible locations will be made available on the Authority's website.

The Outback Communities Authority resolve to meet on the following dates noting that if the meeting schedule is to change, notification will appear on the Authority's website.

- Wednesday 7, Thursday 8 August 2024 at Port Augusta
- Wednesday 18 September 2024, online meeting
- Monday 21, Tuesday 22 October (location to be confirmed)
- Tuesday 12 November 2024, online meeting
- Tuesday 3, Wednesday 4 December 2024, Port Augusta or Adelaide (location to be confirmed)
- Wednesday 29 January 2025, online meeting
- Tuesday 25, Wednesday 26 February at Port Augusta
- Tuesday 25 March, online meeting
- Tuesday 29 April, online meeting
- Tuesday 20, Wednesday 21 May, community visit with location to be confirmed
- Tuesday 17, Wednesday 18 June at Port Augusta

#### 6.7 Leigh Creek Update (Ref. N24-07/06)

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

- AVTowen Manager and Community Partnerships Coordinator engaging with the Leigh Creek Residents and Ratepayers Association to:
  - Define and consult on the Community Contribution for Leigh Creek property owner for 24 / 25, incorporating a household waste management charge
  - The fixed charge per property unit (after community consultation and Ministerial approval) will be \$927 per property unit on rateable land within the township of Leigh Creek, including a household waste management charge of \$308.
  - For those properties / businesses whose CCS payment does not reflect their waste management requirements, individual contracts for services are being formulated. Arrangements for the transition to the new arrangements are currently being finalised.
- Negotiate with ATLA about the use and location of rocks excavated as part of the construction of the Health Clinic.
- Wind up the Leigh Creek Progress Association
  - The Office for Business and Consumer Services is involved in this process by providing advice. It is likely that any funds from the Progress Association will be transferred to the LCRRA soon.

The Leigh Creek Resource Recovery Centre was officially opened on April 23 by the local member, Geoff Brock. The Centre is gaining traction with local community and being well used.

The Outback Communities Authority (the Authority) has instigated projects of relevance to Leigh Creek and the Northern Flinders Ranges region:

- Waste tyre collection (as a one off while a comprehensive waste management strategy is developed)

- Tourism infrastructure review ahead of World Heritage status and Nilpena Ediacara National Park and anticipated increase in visitor numbers
- Planning for the Solar Eclipse in 2030
- The economic opportunities presented to Leigh Creek by these two factors.

From July 1 2024 Leigh Creek will be served by:

- An Assets and Works Manager
- A Community Partnerships Coordinator
- A partnership approach between two Community Partnerships Coordinators who together will seek further opportunities for Leigh Creek and the region.

Leigh Creek is a partner in the OCA's application to the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program (submitted on May 3). Should this application be successful Leigh Creek will be engaged in developing a 'town plan' – along with 12 other Outback SA communities. If the funding application is unsuccessful funds will be allocated from Leigh Creek's state appropriation to undertake this work.

One of the services that Leigh Creek can offer the surrounding region is waste management. This will put pressure on the Leigh Creek Landfill and it is foreseeable that extensions to that facility will be required in the next couple of years, involving additional land and fencing.

The Authority (Board) is keen to take over its responsibilities to Leigh Creek from July 1 2024 and is contemplating writing to the Task Force Chair seeking clarification about these matters.

Members discussed undertaking some town precinct planning after 1 July 2024.

Transfer of assets outlined in the letter from Minister Koutsantonis to the Authority in April last year (excluding the Church and the VIO) has now occurred with funds transferred from DTF with no financial impost on the OCA. The Church has transferred to LCRRA and the VIO has been sold.

The Authority note the Leigh Creek update.

Member Triggs left the meeting at this time.

#### 6.8 Finance Report (Ref. N24-08/06)

The Director tabled the finance report as at 31 May 2024.

The Authority acknowledges that there will be a Machinery of Government change of agencies from the Department for Infrastructure and Transport to the new Department for Housing and Urban Development and anticipates for the transfer of finances process to be accurate and efficient.

The Authority noted the finance report as at 31 May 2024.



## 7. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

## 8. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

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

- Continued support for the Regional Drought Resilience Plan project with the Plan currently being out for consultation
- Attended a meeting of the State Bushfire Coordination Committee
- Working with the Director to address some specific community governance issues

## 9. MEMBERS REPORT

Member Day reported on the following:

- Andamooka community discussions around fundraising for a new RFDS clinic – next event will be the Camp Oven Cookout in August. Current RFDS building will be 60 years old in 2025. The community are actively discussing which existing building the RFDS and Allied Health can operate from while a new building is being built. Two current suggestions are the old DEM registrar building or the old Police Station.
- SAAL & Pastoral Board meeting to be held in Copley on 26 June to have collaborative discussions around buffel grass management.
- Coober Pedy Opal Festival:
  - Attended the Cooper Pedy Opal Festival officially opened by Federal Member for Grey, Rowan Ramsey MP.
  - The opal industry remains vibrant and thriving in the outback, bolstered by the international success of “Outback Opal Hunters”.
  - Earlier this year Member Day discussed with Tourism Minister the Hon Zoe Bettison how the outback is an economic powerhouse.
  - With a targeted rescue and revitalization package, iconic towns could become the heart of a vibrant and prosperous tourism region in the Far North.
- SATC Regional Tourism Review update – Destination Marketing Zones (DMZ) are in the process of being decided on.
  - FRO is actively discussing what their DMZ would look like and aims to have more businesses listed with the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW) in order to provide true data on what the region has to offer.
- FRO continues to support the Outback Communities Authority with their Outback SA regional and community identity initiative.
- Lighting workshop with Nic Mollison to be held in Andamooka on Saturday 22 June. The free community event is supported by Arts South Australia, the Regional Arts Fund, Country Arts SA, the Lang Family Foundation and Foundation SA.

## 10. DIRECTORS REPORT

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

- High speed public wi-fi being installed this week at Fowlers Bay, William Creek and Marree. App for logon access in development. Meeting in early July with Project partners to discuss further funding avenues.
- With Joe Calvert ran a special general meeting at Iron Knob on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June to elect a new committee of management.
- With Zoe Thomas, Assistant Director, Licensing, Consumer and Business Services running special general meetings this week at Oodnadatta (19<sup>th</sup> June) and Aroona Aboriginal Community at Copley (20<sup>th</sup> June) to re-establish those two Progress Associations if possible.
- Very productive three days spent in a staff teambuilding and residential planning session in the last week of May.
- Audit process for 2023/24 commencing on July 8.
- Starlink installed on two OCA vehicles. Third vehicle installation due end of June.
- Invitation to join the planning group for the SA Chapter of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralism to be held in 2026.
- Working group being establish this month in partnership with RDS Far North, PIRSA and DEW to plan for the 2030 solar eclipse. SATC not currently doing anything.
- Attended the Far North Zone Emergency Management meeting.
- Tyre collection in the Northern Flinders well underway.
- Further online consultation planning for early July for the Waste Management Strategy for Outback SA.
- A great deal of work happening in the lead up to the end of financial year. Big thank you to all staff, in particular: Janelle, Kathryn, Sandra.
- Marree cat management program working well. Second visit planned for August.
- Partnership with Veterinary School at University of Adelaide progressing.

#### 11. CORRESPONDENCE REGISTER

The Members noted the Correspondence Register as at 5 June 2024.

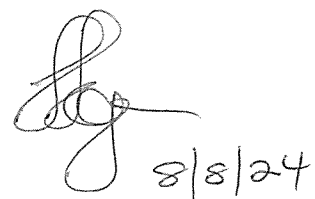
#### 12. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

Nil.

#### 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8 August 2024 and will be held at the OCA office, Port Augusta.

The meeting closed at 10:58 am



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