

Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

21 January 2021

Meeting No. 98

Members:

W McIntosh (Presiding Member)
J Fort, F Frahn, S Johnson, A Vaughan, L Warrington, T Wright

Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held at the Outback Communities Authority Office, 12 Tassie Street, Port Augusta

21 January 2021 at 12.04 pm

Present:

W McIntosh (Presiding Member), J Fort, F Frahn,
A Vaughan, L Warmington and T Wright (OCA Members)
M Sutton (Director, OCA) and J Greatbatch (Business Support Officer, OCA).

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Presiding Member welcomed everyone to meeting 98 of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA).

An apology from Member Johnson has been received.

2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2020 were circulated.

Moved by Member Frahn
Seconded by Member Warmington

That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 16 December 2020, meeting number 97 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 Presiding Member's Report – Response to the Premier of South Australia (Ref. agenda item 9, Meeting No. 93)

The Director confirmed that Livestock SA have requested that a meeting be held between the Chair, Chief Executive Officer and OCA Presiding Member early in 2021; although this matter is pending, no correspondence is required.

4.2.2 Business Plan Progress Report (Ref. agenda item 4.3.6, Meeting No.95)

The Director confirmed that a workshop will be held in 2021 to consider the flexible planning relating to the OCA's 5-year Strategic Management Plan, therefore this matter is pending.

4.2.3 Member's Reports – Support for Regional Tourism (Ref. agenda item 10, Meeting No 95)

The Director advised that a workshop will be held in the future to consider support for regional tourism at a community level, after the completion of the Outback Futures Consultation, therefore this matter is pending.

4.2.4 Finance Report (Ref. agenda item 6.2, Meeting No.96)

The Director advised that he will work with the Attorney-General's Department (Finance Section) regarding a more meaningful finance report, once the transition has been fully finalised. This matter is pending.

4.2.5 Outback Futures (Ref. agenda item 12, Meeting No.96)

The Director advised that a final report with recommendations will be provided to the Minister soon, however this matter is pending.

5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

6. OCA BUSINESS

6.1 Finance Report – December 2020 (Ref. N21-01/01)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled the Finance Report as at 31 December 2020, as provided by the Department of Infrastructure and Transport.

The Director referred to a reduction in the financial assistance grant provided by the Commonwealth Government in 2020-21 and the welcome Local Roads and Community Infrastructure and Drought Communities Programme grants which funded many community projects.

The OCA continues to implement measures to recover outstanding Community Contribution Scheme debts.

The Board noted the Finance Report as at 31 December 2020.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

8. BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled the 2020-21 Business Plan Action Plan. The Director reported that progress with the Outback Futures Project remains ongoing and that publication of oneOutback will continue throughout 2021 with the next edition due out in March.

The Members noted the Business Plan Action.

9. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

The Presiding Member summarised the activities he has been involved in since the December OCA meeting including being asked to participate in the Carbon Forum to be held in Port Augusta on Thursday 11 February. The Presiding Member has also been re-nominated for membership with the State Bushfire Coordination Committee.

The OCA noted the Presiding Member's report.

10. MEMBERS REPORT

Member Fort summarised the projects that she has been involved in:

- Building better regions round 4 – Rising Stars project has continued demonstrating positivity and enthusiasm. Work by the participants has included:
 - creating a marketing committee for Andamooka that aims to allow the town and region to be recognized in its own right to generate new economic opportunities,
 - creating a new heritage and history trail that leads to new community connection and drives visitation,
 - undertaking a communications audit that will allow Roxby Council to create new ways to generate greater community connection and lead to increased stays and economic activity, and
 - revising and redesigning the end-to-end customer experience to ensure it stays true to the regional brand and has increased community involvement where possible.
- Flinders Ranges and Outback Tourism (FRO) involvement has included the AGM held on 14 January 2021 where she was re-appointed as Chair, Carmel Reynolds as Public Officer and Treasurer and Cherie Gerlach as Secretary. FRO activities include:
 - an SATC Regional Consumer Cooperative Marketing Fund 2020-21 application with FRO matching funding to also be put towards this, although the amount will depend on success of the Visitor Guide advertising campaign,
 - 2021 Projects being agreed upon using collaborative funding from SATC for a new destination website for the Flinders and Outback region which is itinerary based and supports the Aussie Travel Code and Visitor Guide,
 - working on producing a refreshed Visitor Guide which will be itinerary driven but will also direct people to the website,

- seeking proposals to provide a digital strategy and associated Activation Plan in partnership with key operators and industry leaders in the Flinders Ranges and Outback region, and
- assisting in regional representation at tourism trade shows.
- Aussie Travel Code (ATC) collaboration with OCA/FRO/Woof Media Marketing with Stage 1 that commenced July 2020 and being completed December 2020. The Digital Performance Report has been provided to the OCA. A proposal for Stage 2 has been shared with the OCA and the South Australian Premier.
- Media monitoring with multiple media reports regarding near misses/breakdowns/rescue operations for travellers in the Outback. Topics have included unsuitability of vehicles for travel on outback roads, unpreparedness of travellers, lack of signage, lack of telecoms and a need for a government led educational approach with associated infrastructure.

11. DIRECTORS REPORT

The Director tabled his report referring to a quiet holiday period with no incidents resulting in any call-outs for OCA staff.

The Director reported that the OCA has been successful in receiving grant funding of \$200,000 from the Australian Government's National Radioactive Waste Management Facility New Community Benefit Program – Hawker to partner with Rural Business Support to extend the successful Farm Business Strategic Review and Drought program. The Director is working with Rural Business Support to put in place contracts and roll out the program.

Following the announcement around the future of Leigh Creek, two new positions will be created with recruitment for a Town Manager and Assets and Works Officer to commence soon to join the Leigh Creek Community Development Officer and Business Support Officer.

The Machinery of Government move to the Attorney-General's Department continues to progress as does work to prepare the new office.

The Director referred to the Carbon Forum funded through the Drought Communities Programme, Round 1 that has been rescheduled to 11 February 2021. Both the Presiding Member and the Director will attend this event.

The Director also provided a list of meetings that he has attended including meeting with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) regarding the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) program, Round 2, participating in two Leigh Creek Township Implementation Committee meetings and attending District Court regarding outstanding CCS payments for Andamooka.

The Director tabled a list of activities undertaken by the Office for the OCA since the December meeting.

12. SECTION 11 COMMITTEE REPORT – OUTBACK FUTURES

The Outback Futures Project Manager provided an update regarding the progress of the Outback Futures Project including providing a draft of the report and recommendations for the Minister.

Moved by Member Vaughan
Seconded by Member Fort

That the OCA:

1. *Notes the Section 11 Committee – Outback Futures update.*
2. *Approves the report and recommendations for the Minister subject to amendments discussed during its January 2021 meeting.*
3. *The Presiding Member will seek a meeting with the Minister to present and discuss the report.*

Carried.

13. CORRESPONDENCE REGISTER

The Director tabled the Correspondence Register for the period 15 December 2020 to 13 January 2021.

The OCA noted the Correspondence Register.

14. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

Nil.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The OCA noted that the next scheduled meeting is to be held on 24 and 25 February in Port Augusta and a teleconference scheduled for 25 March 2021.

The meeting closed at 1.13 pm.

W. M. McIntosh
29-4-21