



Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

9 December 2021

Meeting No. 106

Members:

W McIntosh AM (Presiding Member)

J Fort, F Frahn, S Johnson OAM, A Vaughan ASM, L Warmington, T Wright

Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held at the OCA Boardroom, Port Augusta

9 December 2021 at 11:50 am.

Present:

W McIntosh AM (Presiding Member), J Fort, S Johnson OAM, L Warmington and T Wright. F Frahn and A Vaughan ASM joined the meeting via Microsoft Teams. (OCA Members)
 M Sutton (Director, OCA), M Howard (Outback Futures Project Manager, OCA) and J Greatbatch (Executive Officer, OCA).

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Presiding Member welcomed everyone to meeting 106 of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA).

No apologies have been received.

2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Standing OCA Declaration of Interest 2021-22	
Member	Declaration of Interest
Presiding Member	Member of the Blinman Sports Club and Blinman Progress Association Director, Gum Creek Station Pty Ltd Trustee, McIntosh Family Trust
Member Fort	Chair, Flinders Ranges and Outback SA Tourism Inc Director/Owner, Innamincka Hotel
Member Frahn	Director/Owner, R Warwick Pty Ltd Trustee, Holowiliena Pastoral Trust
Member Johnson	Board Member, Regional Development Australia Far North CEO, District Council of Mount Remarkable
Member Vaughan	CEO, Royal Flying Doctor Service Central Operations
Member Warmington	Secretary, Penong & Districts Progress Association LJ & GM Warmington (Farming)
Member Wright	Director/Owner, Wrightsair Pty Ltd Director/Owner, LA & AM Matthews Pty Ltd Director/Owner, William Creek Hotel Member of the William Creek Progress Association

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2021 were circulated.

Moved by Member Johnson
Seconded by Member Vaughan

That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 11 November 2021, meeting number 105 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 Business Plan Progress Report (Ref. agenda item 4.3.6, Meeting No.95)

The Director confirmed that a workshop will be held once the Outback Futures Project outcomes are known to consider a flexible planning process relating to the OCA's 5-year Strategic Management Plan, therefore this matter is pending.

4.2.2 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 Project, therefore this matter is pending.

4.2.3 Business Plan Progress Report (Ref. agenda item 8, Meeting No.99)

The Director advised correspondence is yet to be forwarded to the Minister for Tourism (the Premier) regarding the impact of increased regional tourism to both the environment and infrastructure, therefore this matter is pending.

4.2.4 Authorisation Under Treasurer's Instruction 8 – Financial (Ref. agenda item 6.1, Meeting No.103)

The Director confirmed the process of increasing the Presiding Member's financial delegation to an amount of not higher than \$1.5m is still ongoing, therefore this matter is pending.

4.2.5 Oodnadatta Health Service (Ref. agenda item 7.2, Meeting No.103)

The Director confirmed correspondence is yet to be forwarded to the Chair of the Eyre and Far North Local Health Network SA Health regarding the health service at Oodnadatta, therefore this matter is pending.

4.2.6 Mental Health Support for Outback Tourism Operators (Ref. agenda item 10, Meeting No.103)

The Director confirmed correspondence is yet to be forwarded to the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) and appropriate Ministers seeking mental health support services for tourism operators in Outback SA, therefore this matter is pending.

4.2.7 Real Property Act – Client Authorisation (Ref. agenda item 6.1, Meeting No.105)

The Director confirmed the Client Authorisation form for the Crown Solicitor's Office to certify and lodge documents to the Lands Titles Office on the OCA's behalf has been executed and returned, therefore this matter can be removed from the action list.

4.2.8 Memorandum of Understanding for the Provision of Services Between AGD and the OCA (Ref. agenda item 6.2, Meeting No. 105)

The Director confirmed a fully executed copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between AGD and the OCA has been provided, therefore this matter can be removed from the action list.

4.2.9 Travel Authorisations – Authorisation for Interstate and Intrastate Travel 2021-22 (Ref. agenda item 6.3, Meeting No. 105)

The Director confirmed that approved travel authorisations for 2021-22 have been provided to AGD, therefore this matter can be removed from the action list.

4.2.10 Outback Futures Project Update (Ref. agenda item 6.5, Meeting No. 105)

Raw documentation from the Coober Pedy strategic planning workshop has been uploaded to the OCA's website. An open letter and FAQs document has been emailed to everyone on the OCA's Outback Futures distribution list and a brochure has been posted to all Outback residents via an Australia Post mail out. These items can be removed from the action list.

5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

6. OCA BUSINESS

6.1 Outback Futures Project December 2021 Update (Ref. N21-01/12)

The Outback Futures Project Manager joined the meeting at this time.

The Presiding Member referred to much discussion by the Members on the Outback Futures report to be provided to the Minister for Planning and Local Government later this month. The report contains a number of recommendations including an extension to additional Outback Futures expenditure approval to support further consideration and consultation on an Outback Levy.

The Members agreed it is important for the report to be provided to the Outback Community by the end of January 2022 ensuring to use as many channels as possible to distribute the information.

Moved by Member Wright
Seconded by Member Fort

That in consideration of Outback Futures recommendations:

1. *The OCA supports legislative or administrative change that guarantees the establishment and maintenance of an enhanced OCA model of Outback governance whereby:*
 - *The OCA employs its own staff, is more independent, empowered and has greater ability to influence and advocate for Outback SA.*
 - *Selection criteria for OCA Board membership is reviewed to improve its ability to maintain close links and represent different sectors of the Outback community.*
 - *OCA and community strategic planning is better integrated and fosters connectivity between communities.*
 - *OCA has a mandated role leading a formal process which can deliver more coordinated and effective services from agencies with responsibilities in the region.*
 - *The OCA is given a formal role in decision making about the provision of infrastructure in the Outback, for example roads and water supplies, and prioritisation of Australian Government funds for a network of local roads in the Outback.*
 - *The OCA is charged with increasing its focus on strengthening and underpinning the volunteer model, encouraging inclusiveness, good governance and risk management practices.*

2. *The OCA commits to its vision for a shared responsibility financial model that underpins sustainable administration of assets and essential services in Outback SA, based on the following realities:*
 - *A greater level of resources is needed by the OCA to meet an increasing demand for services and support in the Outback SA region, both now and into the future, as it faces significant increased visitation.*
 - *The shortfall of resources is best addressed by sharing responsibility in proportion to stake, capacity to pay and/or benefit amongst all stakeholders.*
 - *In Outback SA, a significant component of demand for services arises from a visiting tourism and non-resident workforce population, highly disproportionate to the number of residents and potential ratepayers.*
 - *Outback residents and businesses do not have the critical mass or capacity to pay the shortfall of funds required for sustainable management of the region going forward.*
 - *The Outback region is an exceptional place with a unique range of existing and developing resources vital to the state's economy, where vibrant residential communities are an integral part of that resource.*
 - *This 'value proposition' of the Outback justifies a greater level of external funding to support the region, including a sustainability increased appropriation from the State Government.*

- *An appropriately set Outback levy or rate needs to be considered for its ability to establish and support the shared responsibility rationale for future sustainable administration of the region.*
3. *The OCA supports further consideration of an Outback Levy, with a view to providing a final recommendation regarding any implementation by the end of May 2022, but subject to:*
 - *Conducting further direct negotiations with individual Outback communities providing access, information and more opportunity to contribute.*
 - *Addressing questions of equity, ability to pay and demonstrated local benefit.*
 - *Consolidation of the principle that any levy, if recommended, would be capped in the OCA's legislation, with only CPI increases.*
 4. *Recognising the time needed to consult and implement an Outback Levy, the OCA supports a recommendation that an increased State Government appropriation be provided to the OCA in two stages as follows:*
 - *From 2022-23 the OCA's annual appropriation is increased by \$1.67m to support the provision of services that deliver public benefit across the region.*
 - *From 2023-24 – 100% matching of any approved and implemented Outback Levy to address ongoing sustainability needs and consolidate the shared responsibility model.*
 5. *In upholding its commitment to transparency, the OCA will release the Outback Futures Report to Outback communities by the end of January 2022.*

Carried.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

8. BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled the 2021-22 Business Plan Action Plan. The Director confirmed some actions are ongoing due to the Outback Futures Project not yet being finalised.

The Members noted the Business Plan Action Plan.

9. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

The Presiding Member summarised the activities he has been involved in leading up to the OCA meeting:

- Having many conversations with Outback Community members regarding the Outback Futures Project.
- Attending the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board pastoral field days held in Port Augusta on 2, 3 December 2021.

- Participating in a State Bushfire Committee meeting.

The OCA noted the Presiding Member's report.

10. MEMBERS REPORT

Member Fort reported an Aussie Travel Code (ATC) campaign submission has been entered to the Banksia National Sustainability Awards which has recently received notification of progression to the second round of judging in the Communications for Impact category.

Tourism Australia (TA) has also given recognition to the ATC as the campaign has inspired them to work with all Regional Tourism Organisations (RTOs) to seek deeper understanding of what can encourage more responsible travel in regions across Australia. TA has developed a plan for an Australia wide version on the stakeholder research project developed by Flinders Ranges and Outback Tourism for the ATC and will ask each region to actively participate in a survey to gather insights relevant to Australia's diverse regions. These insights seek to reach deeper into all areas of sustainability – environmental, cultural, physical and economic impacts on communities.

Member Vaughan thanked the Outback Futures Project Manager for all her hard work throughout the Outback Futures Project. All Members likewise expressed their appreciation to the Outback Futures Project Manager.

11. DIRECTORS REPORT

The Director tabled his report for the period leading up to the December meeting referring to the conclusion of the recruitment process for the Business Support Officer who will commence in early January 2022.

The Director tabled an extensive list of activities undertaken by the Office for the OCA since the November meeting.

The Director thanked Community Development Officer Mark Shirley who after 17 years with the OCA (including with its predecessor the OACDT), formally finishes working for the OCA in early 2022 after some much deserved long service leave. Mark leaves a legacy of commitment and unwavering support for volunteers at the grass roots.

The Members also expressed their appreciation to Mark Shirley for his dedication to the OCA and the Outback Community over the last 17 years.

Moved by Member Warmington

Seconded by Member Fort

That the OCA recognise the many achievements by Mark Shirley during his time working with the OCA and pass on their thanks and appreciation for his dedication and hard work.

Carried.

12. CORRESPONDENCE REGISTER

The Director tabled the Correspondence Register for the period 1 to 24 November 2021.

The OCA noted the Correspondence Register.

13. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

Nil.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The OCA noted that the next scheduled meeting will be a teleconference on 27 January (to be confirmed) followed by a meeting on 23, 24 February 2022 at Port Augusta.

The meeting closed at 12:44pm.

W. M. McIntosh
24-2-22