

# Minutes

## Outback Communities Authority

30 August 2019

Meeting No. 87

Members:

W McIntosh (Presiding Member)

J Fort, F Frahn, M Marsland, C Michelmore, T Roach, L Warmington

# Minutes

## Outback Communities Authority

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

30 August 2019 at 10.00 am

Present:

W McIntosh (Presiding Member), J Fort, F Frahn, M Marsland, C Michelmore,  
T Roach and L Warmington (OCA Members)  
M Sutton (Director, OOCA), B Gough and B Honan (OOCA).

### 1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Presiding Member welcomed new and existing Members to the first meeting of the new iteration of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA). The Presiding Member advised that he is looking forward to forming a strong team and working on the challenges that lay ahead.

### 2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

### 3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Although not notifiable interests, Member Warmington declared his position as Secretary on the Penong and District Progress Association, the Presiding Member declared his membership on the Blinman Progress Association and also as a provider of waste management services in the Flinders region.

### 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2019 were circulated.

Moved by Member Michelmore  
Seconded by Member Roach

*That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 23 May 2019, meeting number 85 as circulated to Members, be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting, noting slight amendment to page 11.*

Carried.

4.2 The minutes of the electronic meeting held during June 2019 were circulated.

Moved by Member Marsland  
Seconded by Member Michelmore

*That the minutes of the meeting held during June 2019 vide electronic means in accordance with section 10(5) of the Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009, meeting number 86 as circulated to Members, be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.*

Carried.

#### 4.3 Business arising from minutes.

##### 4.3.1 2018-19 OCA Budget (Ref. agenda item 4.3.2, Meeting No. 75)

The Presiding Member referred to the Director who confirmed that the OCA's budget amendment to reflect the OCA's business needs, remains ongoing.

##### 4.3.2 OCA 2019-20 Business Plan and Budget (Ref. agenda item 6.1, Meeting No.85)

The Presiding Member referred to the Director who confirmed that the OCA has received the Minister's approval for the 2019-20 Business Plan and Budget, therefore this matter can be removed from the Action List.

##### 4.3.3 2019-20 Dog Registration Fees (Ref. agenda item 6.3, Meeting No.85)

The Presiding Member referred to the Director who confirmed that the Office for the OCA (OOCA) has advised the Dog and Cat Management Board dog registration fees for 2019-20, therefore this matter can be removed from the Action List.

##### 4.3.4 Declaration of Community Contribution – Iron Knob (Ref. agenda item 6.1, Meeting No.86)

The Presiding Member referred to the Director who confirmed that the Minister has approved the fixed charge for community contributions in Iron Knob and that the community's 2019-20 Community Affairs, Resourcing and Management agreement has been finalised, therefore this matter can be removed from the Action List.

##### 4.3.5 Declaration of Community Contribution – Andamooka (Ref. agenda item 6.2, Meeting No.86)

The Presiding Member referred to the Director who confirmed that the Minister has approved the fixed charge for community contributions in Andamooka and that the community's 2019-20 Community Affairs, Resourcing and Management agreement has been finalised, therefore this matter can be removed from the Action List.

#### 5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

## 6. OCA BUSINESS

### 6.1 National Radioactive Waste Management Facility (NRWMF) Proposal at Wallerberdina Station (Ref. N19-01/08)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who referred to the OCA meeting held on 14 June 2018 where this matter had previously been considered. The Director confirmed that on 14 August 2018, proceedings commenced in the Supreme Court of South Australia where an Interlocutory Application was filed seeking an injunction in relation to the ballot accessing community support for the proposed radioactive waste facility in the Kimba region.

The Director confirmed that the Court granted a temporary injunction to the application with a final hearing to be held late in August 2018. This action resulted in a request to The Flinders Ranges Council (FRC) to not proceed with the ballot until the matter relating to the proposed Kimba sites was heard by the Supreme Court of South Australia.

The FRC agreed and the ballot did not go ahead.

On 12 July 2019, the Federal Court dismissed the *Barngarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC v District Council of Kimba* [2019] FCA 1092 application against the District Council of Kimba in relation to the ballot breaching the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975*.

The Director referred to tabled correspondence received from Minister Canavan proposing a recommencement of the process for undertaking a community vote process regarding the nomination of the Wallerberdina site for the NRWMF.

The Director advised that there are approximately fifty contiguous allotments within the 50 km radius of the Wallerberdina site with many of these allotments being owned or leased by body corporates. The process for determining the eligibility criteria/evidence to register to vote will be based upon the provisions contained within Section 14, 15 and 16 of the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999* combined with the House of Assembly roll for the defined area.

There is no obligation for the OCA to have a roll pursuant to the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999*, however if this is the roll The FRC are using it is reasonable for the OCA to utilise the same criteria in the preparation of a roll for the unincorporated areas within the defined area.

Moved by Member Marsland  
Seconded by Member Roach

*To enable the participation of those who hold land in the unincorporated areas and within the 50 km radius of the Wallerberdina site, the OCA:*

1. *notes the letter from Senator the Hon Matthew Canavan, Minister for Resources and Northern Australia;*
2. *supports a ballot process to understand community support for the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility in the community;*
3. *supports the proposed ballot question "Do you support the proposed National Radioactive Waste Management Facility in your community?";*

4. support the Australian Electoral Commission issuing ballot papers for a 5 week period from a date to be determined by The Flinders Ranges Council and DIIS;
5. supports The Flinders Ranges Council contracting the Australian Electoral Commission to undertake the vote;
6. agrees that The Flinders Ranges Council will act on behalf of the OCA in undertaking the vote;
7. supports The Flinders Ranges Council advertising and administering the Supplementary Roll and incorporating eligible OCA voters on the roll;
8. agrees to the eligibility criteria/evidence to register to vote being a combination of the principles of the Local Government (Elections) Act 1999 and the House of Assembly Electoral Roll as determined by The Flinders Ranges Council; and
9. agrees to the OCA sending a letter to OCA addresses in the boundary area to register for the ballot via the Supplementary Roll
10. seeks reimbursement from the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science for costs incurred by OCA staff.

Carried.

6.2 Lake Eyre – Analysis of the Impacts and Opportunities an event has on the Region  
(Ref. N19–02/05)

Member Fort declared an interest in the following agenda item.

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who informed the Members that in May he had participated in a meeting where Regional Development Australia Far North (RDAFN), the Tourism Industry Council of SA (TICSA) and Flinders Ranges Outback (FRO) Tourism also attended. As a result of that meeting the Director requested that the OCA consider investing into the preparation of a report that analyses the impacts and opportunities of a significant event and future events, such as a significant flow of water into Lake Eyre.

The OCA noted that it is likely that there are other unique areas in the outback that would also benefit from a similar report and that there may be opportunities in the future to explore this.

It is noted that Member Fort abstained from voting.

Moved by Member Roach  
Seconded by Member Marsland

*That the OCA:*

- *Notes the tourism activity in the Lake Eyre region;*
- *Allocates \$10,000 for the preparation of a report that analyses the actual and potential economic benefits tourism activity around Lake Eyre has on the regional economy.*

Carried.

6.3 Use of Delegations 2018-19 (Ref. N19–03/08)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Governance Manager who advised that for the purposes of carrying out a decision of the OCA effectively and efficiently, certain functions and powers of the Act to the OOCA have been delegated. The Governance Manager confirmed that those powers and functions

are limited by financial delegations, assigned by the Chief Executive of the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure. The Governance Manager tabled a record of actions taken under delegation during 2018-19.

The OCA noted the use of financial delegations for 2018-19 by the OOCA as set out in the record of actions as tabled.

6.4 Real Property Act – Client Authorisation (Ref. N19–04/08)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Governance Manager who advised that the *Real Property (Electronic Conveyancing) Amendment Act* requires client authorisation to enable transactions to be lodged in the Lands Titles Office. The Governance Manager advised that this is the form by which the OCA, authorises Executives from the Crown Solicitor's Office to certify and lodge documents in the Lands Titles Office on its behalf. The Governance Manager confirmed that the OCA authorised the execution of a Verification of the Identity Declaration form and a Client Authorisation form in 2016 but that authorisation now requires renewal.

Moved by Member Michelmore  
Seconded by Member Frahn

*That the OCA resolves to authorise execution of a Client Authorisation form.*

Carried.

6.5 Policy Review (Ref. N19–05/08)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Governance Manager who advised that the OCA has developed a suite of policies to articulate how responsibilities under the *Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009* are to be achieved. The Governance Manager confirmed that all OCA policies are under continual assessment and are reviewed by the OCA on recommendation of the Director or within 3 months of an appointment or the renewal tenure of the Presiding Member, whichever comes first.

The Governance Manager confirmed that a review of the OCA's policies is required before 30 September 2019, adding that there has not been a significant change to the function or objectives of the OCA nor the circumstances around the development of the policies, since the last review. The Governance Manager confirmed that the review does not include operational procedures, which are ongoing.

Moved by Member Marsland  
Seconded by Member Roach

*That the OCA notes the information provided and reaffirms its full suite of policies.*

Carried.

6.6 OCA Risk Management Register Review (Ref. N19-06/08)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled the OCA's Risk Register which has recently been reviewed. The Director advised that the OCA review the Risk Management Register annually, although the Register is continually assessed in response to events. The Governance Manager confirmed that consistent with whole of Government strategies, the default risk appetite level remains at moderate.

The OCA agreed that consideration should be given to outback community risks and that this information will assist the OCA with its strategic planning processes.

Moved by Member Fort  
Seconded by Member Michelmore

*That the OCA endorse the attached Risk Register as reviewed.*

Carried.

6.7 Financial Management Compliance Program (Ref. N19-07/08)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled the OCA's 2018-19 Financial Management Compliance Program (FMCP) along with a Minute received from the Director of Finance, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) regarding the said Program.

The Business Services Manager advised that the DPTI Director confirmed that the control self-assessments analysis indicates that the OCA has a moderate to high level of compliance, continued on from when the OCA developed its FMCP in 2016-17.

The Business Services Manager noted that the OCA's results have been included in the DPTI FMCP, endorsed by the Chief Executive, DPTI.

The OCA noted the Minute from the Director of Finance, DPTI to the Director of the OCA regarding the Financial Management Compliance Program Report, 2018-19.

Moved by Member Roach  
Seconded by Member Warrington

*That the OCA endorse the OCA's 2018-19 Financial Management Compliance Program assessment.*

Carried.

6.8 2019-20 OCA Board Meeting Schedule (Ref. N19-08/08)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Business Services Manager who tabled proposed dates for OCA meetings throughout 2019-20.

Member Roach advised that due to work commitments there may be some meeting dates that she will not be able to attend.

Moved by Member Marsland  
Seconded by Member Michelmore

*That the OCA resolve to meet on the following dates, at the recommended locations, noting that if the meeting schedule is to change, notification will appear on the OCA website immediately.*

- *Thursday 29, Friday 30 August 2019 at Port Augusta.*
- *Thursday 19 September 2019, a teleconference (to be confirmed).*
- *Wednesday 16, Thursday 17 October 2019 at Gawler Ranges.*
- *Thursday 14 November 2019, a teleconference (to be confirmed).*
- *Wednesday 11, Thursday 12 December 2019, Adelaide (annual meeting with Minister – to be confirmed).*
- *Thursday 16 January 2020\*, a teleconference (to be confirmed).*
- *Wednesday 19, Thursday 20 February 2020, Port Augusta.*
- *Thursday 19 March 2020, a teleconference (to be confirmed).*
- *Tuesday 14, Wednesday 15, Thursday 16 April 2020\*, Marla (Pimba and Glendambo – to be confirmed).*
- *Thursday 21 May 2020, a teleconference (to be confirmed).*
- *Wednesday 17, Thursday 18 June 2020, Port Augusta.*

Carried.

6.9 2018-19 Budget Monitoring Report as at 30 June 2019 (Ref. N19-09/08)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Business Services Manager who tabled the Budget Monitoring Report as at 30 June 2019. The Business Services Manager advised that income variances related to more income received from early 2019-20 Financial Assistance Grant payments, new income received relating to the Outback War Memorial project and the Outback Recreation Sport Strategy. The OCA also received income from DPTI to manage road maintenance in Andamooka.

The Business Services Manager summarised the expenditure variance, advising that the OCA being unable to fill positions based at Leigh Creek, audit fees being lower than budgeted and delays with the Building Better Regions Fund (water filtration and dispensing systems) negotiations, all contributed to an underspend in expenditure.

The Director advised that working capital to the amount of \$1.1 million was approved for the OCA in June 2019 which will ensure that the OCA sustains its operations and maintains a positive cash flow.

The OCA noted a positive increase in the allocation of funds for communities between 2017-18 and 2018-19 and also noted the June 2019 budget summary.

6.10 Regional Development Australia Far North Quarterly Report to June 2019 (Ref. N19-10/08)

The Director acknowledged his position of Chair on the Regional Development Australia Far North Board (RDAFN).



The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Governance Manager who tabled the Local Government Core Funding Agreement Progress Report for the period 1 April to 30 June 2019.

The Governance Manager highlighted the significant achievements of the RDAFN as reported, including but not limited to:

- Lobbying for the inclusion of the OCA in the Drought Communities Programme. This resulted in the Unincorporated Areas of SA becoming eligible for non-competitive funding of up to one million dollars for community projects.
- Facilitation of drought roundtable discussions in Port Augusta where eight industries and service providers were represented.
- Assistance from RDAFN staff with the preparation of business and project plans along with a commitment to provide further assistance should similar opportunities arise for businesses and groups located in Copley, Andamooka, Leigh Creek, Lyndhurst, Northern Flinders and Beltana.

The OCA noted the RDAFN quarterly report to 30 June 2019.

## 7. URGENT BUSINESS

### 7.1 Drought Communities Programme (Ref. N 19 – 01/08)

The Presiding Member referred to a workshop held earlier in the day where the OCA considered various projects submitted from outback communities and external stakeholders seeking funding. A broad range of project proposals have been received, ranging from community events to local community infrastructure renovation. The OCA will work with RDAFN in providing the project proposals seeking confirmation of funding through the Drought Communities Programme.

Moved by Member Fort  
Seconded by Member Roach

*That the OCA:*

- *Further to the workshop the OCA approves the nominated community and stakeholder projects as tabled, be submitted to the Drought Communities Programme; and*
- *Notes the establishment of a steering committee to oversee the projects/manage the projects comprising members from the Office for the Outback Communities Authority, Regional Development Australia Far North, SA Arid Lands Natural Resources Management and Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA.*

Carried.

### 7.2 2019-20 OCA Budget Amendment (Ref. N 19 – 02/08)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director regarding additional budget expenditure authority provided by the State Government in the 2019-20 budget in the amount of \$740,000, recommending that the OCA go to consultation

on the variation and also advise the Minister for Local Government (as required by the OCA's empowering legislation).

The Director confirmed that a revenue target of \$740,000 was also approved, associated with the introduction of an Asset Sustainability Levy (ASL). The OCA agreed that extensive consultation across the unincorporated areas of South Australia is required prior to the implementation of an ASL and that no new levies will be introduced by the OCA in 2019-20.

The Director confirmed that the additional budget expenditure will assist with capital expenditure for the renewal and replacement of OCA owned assets, improve service levels on OCA provided services, facilitate extensive community consultation and increase grant opportunities for Outback Communities.

Moved by Member Michelmore  
Seconded by Member Marsland

*That the OCA:*

- *Accepts the increased expenditure authority of \$740,000 provided by Treasury.*
- *Notes that the corresponding revenue target will not be achieved at least in the 2019-20 financial year.*
- *Seeks Minister approval for the variation to the Outback Communities Authority's 2019-20 budget.*

Carried.

### 7.3 Pastoral Act Reform (Ref. N 19 – 03/08)

Following on from a workshop held on the previous day in relation to the review of the *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989* (Pastoral Act), the OCA acknowledges the invitation and welcomes the opportunity to participate in the Pastoral Act review.

The OCA noted that an information session jointly organised by Livestock SA and the Pastoral Board will be held on 11 September in Port Augusta.

Moved by Member Frahn  
Seconded by Member Roach

*That the OCA wishes to make a submission to the Pastoral Act review and seeks an extension to the due date from the Department of Primary Industries and Resources SA.*

Carried.

## 8. BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled the 2019-20 Business Plan Action Plan.

The Director provided a summary of ongoing work and anticipated outcomes including the development of a new outback newspaper, with the first edition due in November

2019. The newspaper will include stories from outback communities along with OOCA news. The Director indicated that asset management plans will be finalised and the Tourism Destination Management and Marketing Plan completed in the 2019-20 year.

The Members noted the Business Plan Action Plan.

## 9. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

The Presiding Member advised that since the new appointments were announced his time has been spent concentrating on making contacts, noting briefings and collecting information relating to the business and the challenges facing the OCA. The Presiding Member thanked the Director for his support during this period.

The Presiding Member confirmed that he had attended the Isolated Children's Parents' Association Federal Conference in early August which was professionally organised and hosted excellent guest speakers.

The Presiding Member referred to a meeting he attended with the Director OOCA, Director Office of Local Government and DPTI Director of Finance in relation to the additional expenditure authority and associated income target approved for the OCA's 2019-20 budget. The Presiding Member also confirmed that he had recently had a telephone discussion with the Minister for Local Government regarding the same matter where the Presiding Member highlighted the need for comprehensive consultation with all outback stakeholders. The Presiding Member confirmed that both discussions were very beneficial and he will continue to work closely with the Director of the OOCA on this matter, informing the OCA as more information comes to hand.

The OCA agreed that the following recommendation is mandated by section 6 (1)(c) and 6(2)(c) of the *Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009* and in addressing the current issue of financial sustainability of infrastructure and services provision in the outback, advise the Minister that it proposes to approach this by leading a major project to address possible reforms to future governance of the outback. To this end the OCA will develop a detailed, time bound project plan containing the following elements:

Moved by Member Roach  
Seconded by Member Frahn

*That the OCA:*

- *Undertake a broad and comprehensive consultation process with outback people asking their views and aspirations about how to achieve a better, more resilient community in the future;*
- *Pursuant to the Act establish a Task Force or Committee made up of key stakeholders to oversee, review feedback and form recommendations;*
- *Commit resources from the allocated \$740,000 additional expenditure authority to conduct the project, working to an agreed project plan with a firm completion date enabling the OCA to make recommendations to the Minister regarding a governance model to meet community resilience and sustainability needs;*
- *Affirm that it will not consider the introduction of an Asset Sustainability Levy until after the conclusion of the comprehensive consultation process which will take into account all options.*

Carried.

The OCA noted the Presiding Member's report.

## 10. MEMBERS REPORT

Member Michelmore referred to outgoing Member, Mark Fennell and his contribution to the OCA during his three year term.

Moved by Member Michelmore  
Seconded by Member Marsland

*That the OCA acknowledges the contribution from outgoing Member Mark Fennell to the Outback Communities Authority with it's thanks.*

Carried.

The OCA noted that a letter of thanks has been forwarded to Member Fennell from the Minister of Local Government.

Members Michelmore and Marsland departed from the meeting.

Member Fort tabled her report and spoke about the Lake Eyre water event and subsequent challenges it has brought to outback businesses, environmental aspects, waste and roads.

Member Fort advised that a new SES shed is likely to be erected in Innamincka and that the Innamincka Progress Association are looking to erect an information stand in the town. Along with those projects, other exciting news includes the Royal Flying Doctor Service new clinic being announced for Innamincka and Telstra 4g small cell is available, covering a 4 kilometer radius of the town.

Member Fort provided a report on behalf of Flinders Ranges and Outback (FRO) Tourism, confirming that four collaborative marketing projects commenced in February 2019 are now completed, with outcomes reported to SA Tourism Commission. Member Fort confirmed that the Tourism Officer role is currently vacant, although is being actively advertised by RDAFN.

Member Fort added that she will provide a report back to the Board from the next Flinders Ranges and Outback meeting; unfortunately they are still without an administrative officer.

Member Fort advised that an increase in production of the Visitor Guide brochure occurred due to increased demand.

## 11. DIRECTORS REPORT

The Director welcomed the new Presiding Member of the OCA and new Members.

The Director summarised his report advising that his time has been spent balanced between transitioning the new Presiding Member into the OCA and his appointment to Chair a Community Advisory Panel tasked with providing recommendations for a Regional Development Strategy for the State Government.

The Director referred to the Drought Communities Programme and the proposed National Radioactive Waste Management Facility community ballot for the nominated Wallerberdina site; both quite time consuming.

The Director confirmed that he is hopeful that recruitment for two Leigh creek positions will be advertised and finalised in the near future, adding that the OOCA continues to support the township from the Port Augusta office.

The Director confirmed that the development of a quarterly 'outback newspaper' has progressed, adding that the first edition is scheduled for November.

The Director also advised that DPTI has confirmed that the OOCA will be relocating, although the exact location is yet to be confirmed. The OOCA will continue to work closely with DPTI on this matter.

The Director tabled an extensive list of meetings that he has attended along with activities and community visits that OOCA staff have been involved in since the May OCA meeting. The Director highlighted achievements by the OOCA including progress with debt recovery (conducive to unpaid community contributions in Andamooka and Iron Knob), funds recovered from the two outback water stations and the commencement of upgrades to the Marla and Oodnadatta airstrips. The Director confirmed that the procurement process for the further five outback water stations has commenced and it is envisaged that the first station will be delivered by the end of the calendar year.

The OCA noted the Director's report.

## 12. CORRESPONDENCE REGISTER

The Director tabled the Correspondence Register for the period July to August 2019.

The OCA noted the Correspondence Register.


## 13. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

No Confidential Orders were discussed.

## 14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The OCA noted that the next scheduled meeting is a teleconference to be held on 19 September 2019, if required, or 16, 17 October in the Gawler Ranges.

The meeting closed at 1.20 pm.

  
11-10-19