

# Minutes

## Outback Communities Authority

18 May 2017

Meeting No. 67

Members:

C Woolford (Chair)

J Booth, M Fennell, J Ferguson, J Fort, M Marsland, C Michelmore



# Minutes

## Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held at the Outback Communities Authority office, 12 Tassie Street, Port Augusta on  
18 May 2017 at 1.45 pm

**Present:**

C Woolford (Chair)

J Booth, M Fennell, J Ferguson, J Fort, M Marsland and C Michelmore (OCA Members),  
M Sutton (Director, OCA), and B Honan (OCA staff).

### 1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to meeting 67 of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA).

Apologies were received from Ms A Hart, Manager, Office of Local Government and the Governance Manager (Gov M).

### 2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

The Chair and Members acknowledged the presentations provided earlier in the day by the Community Development Officer, Asset and Works Officer and Northern Flinders Project Officer regarding the progress of current projects. The Board agreed that the presentations were very informative.

### 3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil.

### 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2017 were circulated.

**Moved by Member Ferguson**  
**Seconded by Member Fennell**

*That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 16 March 2017, meeting number 66 be adopted.*

**Carried.**

4.2 Business arising from minutes.

4.2.1 Oodnadatta Development Project (Ref. Agenda item 3.1, Meeting No. 55;  
Agenda item 4.2.5, Meeting No. 5; Agenda item 4.2.2, Meeting No. 60)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director (Dir) who advised that this matter has been included in agenda item 6.1. The matter will not be removed from Business Arising as the matter is ongoing.

- 4.2.2 Aboriginal Regional Authority (Ref. Agenda item 4.2.10, Meeting No. 64)  
The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who advised that this matter is deferred until a meeting date that suits both parties can be confirmed.
- 4.2.3 Auditor General's Report 2015-16 (Ref. Agenda item 6.5, Meeting No. 65)  
The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who advised that correspondence has been forwarded to the Auditor General's Department in response to audit findings. The Dir confirmed that he and the A&WO and Business Services Manager will be attending Risk Assessment training on 22 and 23 May in Adelaide which is facilitated by the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) and it is envisioned that the Office for the OCA will commence its Risk Register immediately after the training.

The Dir confirmed that he has attended a meeting with DPTI Corporate Finance to discuss finance matters with the view to developing a financial management compliance program that is specific to the OCA's operations. A further meeting has been scheduled for 24 May where a Financial Management Compliance Program will be explored with the view that the document will be developed in the very near future.

The Dir also reported that Corporate Finance, DPTI have commenced developing a Service Level Agreement for the OCA, intended to commence in 2017-18.

- 4.2.4 Outback Memorial Park (Ref. Agenda item 6.4, Meeting No. 65)  
The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who confirmed that a report regarding the Outback Memorial Park project will be provided at the July meeting.
- 4.2.5 Business Plan Progress Report – oneOutback Prospectus (Ref. Agenda item 9, Meeting No. 65)  
The Chair referred discussion to the Director who confirmed that he received the final draft of the oneOutback Prospectus yesterday. The Chair requested that Members should action comments quickly and suggested that a communication plan should be developed for the launch of the Prospectus.
- 4.2.6 Public Toilet Facilities on the Barrier Highway (Ref. Agenda item 6.1, Meeting No. 66)  
The Chair referred discussion to the Director who advised that it is anticipated that a review currently underway on outback public conveniences should be available for the July meeting. Member Ferguson requested that the review should also include those communities where a public convenience is not available.
- 4.2.7 Budget Monitoring Report (Ref. Agenda item 6.5, Meeting No. 66)  
The Chair referred discussion to the director who advised that this matter has been included in the meeting agenda, therefore this matter can be removed from the Action List.

## 5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

## 6. OCA BUSINESS

### 6.1 Oodnadatta Governance (Ref. N17-01/05)

The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who provided a summary of the activities that have been occurring in Oodnadatta since the OCA's March meeting. The Dir confirmed that at the AGM held in January 2017 Ms Maria Stewart was elected as the Chairperson along with a further six community members to the Dunjiba Community Council.

The Dir confirmed that OCA staff visited Oodnadatta in March and met with the new Dunjiba Community Council and discussed the projects that were being delivered in the town and also the role of the OCA.

The Dir reported that a forum of State and Commonwealth government agencies was held on 28 March to discuss how the Dunjiba Community Council can work together to achieve projects and community goals and deal with local issues.

The Dir confirmed that the Dunjiba Community Council are keen to have a Town Manager onsite able to work closely with stakeholders including the Oodnadatta Progress Association with the view of developing strategies that will result in the management of local issues.

The Members agreed that it would be useful to compare the Oodnadatta community to other remote communities to ascertain if management practices can be improved and to also review funding sources.

The OCA noted the update and continues to participate in ongoing dialogue seeking to resolve this matter

### 6.2 Financial Compliance (Ref. N17-02/05)

The Chair referred to agenda item 4.2.3 where this matter had been discussed.

The Dir advised that the OCA have been working with DPTI to address the concerns raised by the Auditor General's Department in the 2015-16 audit of the OCA.

The Dir confirmed that he is pleased with the direction of conversation with DPTI and their willingness to support and assist the OCA with this matter.

The OCA noted the progress addressing the matters raised in the Auditor-Generals report specific to the 2015-16 audit relating to financial compliance, risk management framework and a service level agreement.

### 6.3 2017-18 Dog Registration Fees (Ref. N17-03/05)

The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who advised that on 18 November 2015 the *Dog and Cat Management (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2016* was introduced by Minister Hunter into Parliament and assented by the Governor on 14 July 2016. The amendments will implement quite significant changes to the way that owners, breeders, sellers and local government manage dogs and cats.

The Dir confirmed that the reforms are designed to reduce the number of lost, unclaimed or unwanted dogs and cats euthanized in pounds and shelters by implementing mandatory microchipping and desexing.

The Dir reported that the *Dog and Cat Management Regulations 2017* were made by the Governor on 19 April 2017 with the Amended Act and Regulations to come into operation from 1 July 2017, with the exception of the regulations relating to mandatory microchipping, desexing and the breeding and sale of dogs and cats, proposed to take effect from 1 July 2018.

The Dir confirmed that from 1 July 2018 it will be compulsory for all dogs and cats over a certain age to be microchipped and all new generations of dogs and cats (born after 1 July 2018) to be desexed, although there are some exemptions applying to working dogs and registered breeders.

The Dir reported that from 1 July 2017 section 80A of the amended *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 (Act)* will allow the Dog and Cat Management Board to grant exemptions from provisions in the Act. What is of great relevance to the OCA, is the Dog and Cat Management Board is currently developing an 'Exemptions Policy' which will set out requirements for an individual body or organisation to apply to the Board for an exemption under section 80A of the Act.

The Dir advised that as the OCA is unable to regulate dog registrations, it will seek an exemption.

The Dir reported that historically the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation has approved Council and OCA annual dog registrations. With the amendments to the Act this process has changed and the OCA are required to approve each year's registration fees, not exceeding the cap for registration fees set by the Minister in the Regulations.

The Dir confirmed that the tabled recommended registration fees for 2017-18 are considerably lower than most regional Councils with the intention being to encourage outback residents to continue to register their dogs.

The Members noted the amendment to the setting of dog registration fees.

**Moved by Member Ferguson**  
**Seconded by Member Michelmore**

*That the OCA approves the dog registration fees as tabled for 2017-18.*

Carried.

6.4 2017-18 Meeting Schedule (Ref. N17-04/05)

The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who tabled the proposed meeting schedule for 2017-18 seeking to confirm the meeting dates and locations for the forthcoming financial year.

Although a teleconference is scheduled for June, the Members agreed that it would be more beneficial to hold a meeting on 21 June in Adelaide.

**Moved by Member Ferguson  
Seconded by Member Booth**

*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:*

*19, 20 July 2017, Port Augusta  
17 August 2017, teleconference (to be confirmed)  
19, 20, 21 September 2017, West Coast  
19 October 2017, teleconference (to be confirmed)  
8, 9 November 2017, Port Augusta  
12, 13 December 2017, Adelaide  
18 January 2018, teleconference (to be confirmed)  
14, 15 February 2018, Port Augusta  
15 March 2018, teleconference (to be confirmed)  
18, 19 April 2018, Andamooka  
17 May 2018, teleconference (to be confirmed)  
20, 21 June 2018, Port Augusta.*

Carried.

6.5 Budget Monitoring Report – May 2017 (Ref. N17-05/05)

The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who tabled the Budget Monitoring Report as at 30 April 2017. The Board discussed the report, noting the further review of the supplies and services revised expenditure and that at this point in time, the report identifies a Budget improvement of approximately \$45,000.

The OCA noted the May 2017 Budget Monitoring Report.

Carried.

## 7. LEIGH CREEK UPDATE

7.1 Leigh Creek Update

The Chair referred discussion to the Dir who provided a summary of activities relating to the Leigh Creek transition including, but not limited to:

- The minor refurbishment of the Leigh Creek aerodrome terminal, training room, community Aroona Room and Town Administration office.
- Commencing work on the installation of Wi-Fi hotspots.
- The engagement Flinders Management Services to operate the Leigh Creek waste management facility and rubbish collection, including the reintroduction of waste collection service to Housing SA residents in Copley.

- Working with Renewal SA, DPTI and SA Tourism Commission on an Expression of Interest process for the former Leigh Creek Tavern, successfully securing new operators, 1834 Hotels.
- Negotiations with scenic flight operators for use of the Leigh Creek aerodrome.
- Supporting the introduction of the first-ever volunteer Leigh Creek/Copley CFS Brigade.

The Dir also summarised ongoing initiatives that the OCA will continue to be involved in being:

- The installation of Wi-Fi hot spots around Leigh Creek.
- Working with Flinders Management Services on a recycling service and broadening the current service.
- Providing a childcare solution for community members by negotiating for the Remote and Isolated Children's Exercise to utilise the existing Leigh Creek early education facility.
- Exploring an RV friendly status for Leigh Creek.
- Submitting an Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA) license application for the supply of water for Lyndhurst and Districts Progress Association, as required by SA Water as the new operators of the Leigh Creek water supply network and pipeline to Lyndhurst.

The Chair confirmed that the Housing Working Party has been established, with the Chair being Ms Mary Patetsos, although a date is yet to be confirmed for the first meeting.

The OCA noted the continued work relating to the Leigh Creek transition and successes to date.

## 8. URGENT BUSINESS

### 8.1 Draft 2017-18 Business Plan and Budget

Further to a workshop held earlier in the day, the Chair tabled the draft 2017-18 Business Plan and Budget for approval. The Board noted that consultation on the document occurred from 17 April to 17 May and no comments have been received from stakeholders, therefore the document does not require any amendments.

**Moved by Member Marsland  
Seconded by Member Ferguson**

*That the OCA seek the approval from the Minister for the 2017-18 Business Plan and Budget.*

Carried.

### 8.2 2016-17 Community Affairs Resourcing and Management (CARM) Review

Further to a workshop held earlier in the day, the Chair tabled information relating to a review of the 2016-17 CARM agreement process.

The Dir advised that an internal review of the 2016-17 CARM process will be undertaken as the process has changed significantly from previous years. The Dir reported that historically it has been difficult to manage the CARM budget as releasing

funding to outback communities has been reliant on those communities providing applications for projects and tax invoices when seeking reimbursements which seems to have been quite onerous on the volunteers in the communities. The Dir advised that the 2016-17 CARM agreement process has alleviated the need for grant applications to be submitted, although milestones are still required before funding can be released. The Dir confirmed that all outback communities that have a CARM agreement in place have been notified that if funding has not been claimed by 30 April 2017, the funding was likely to be reallocated.

The Members noted the 2016-17 CARM review funding spreadsheet and that by reallocating the unclaimed funds, it is anticipated that there will be no underspend at the end of this financial year.

**Moved by Member Marsland  
Seconded by Member Fort**

*That the OCA:*

- *Agree to allocating underspent 2016-17 CARM program funds towards high priority projects identified in Community 2017-18 budget planning processes at a 1:1 ratio by those communities who complied with meeting all of the milestones required for 2016-17.*
- *Support the Lyndhurst ceiling installation project at 100% being 50% subsidy at 1:1 and 50% loan.*

**Carried.**

In supporting these recommendations, the OCA notes that these approvals will be clearly articulated in each of the recipient community's 2017-18 CARM agreement.

### 8.3 OCA Strategic Direction

Further to a workshop held on the previous day, the Members agreed that they are looking forward to receiving and adopting the formal report from the facilitator which will expand on the existing five-year Strategic Management Plan. The Members agreed that the Board's expectations depend on the facilitator's report and that it is important for the Dir to provide supporting information and recommendations on how additional resourcing will enable the delivery of the expanded plan.

The Members acknowledged that the report will represent a significant change for the organisation.

**Moved by Member Michelmore  
Seconded by Member Fort**

*That the Director:*

- *Present for the Board's consideration at the July meeting his recommendation regarding the additional OCA resources which will be required to deliver that plan.*
- *Also present the organisational structure under which he proposes that those augmented resources should in future be deployed.*
- *Provide the additional annual cost which will be incurred to fund those resources.*

**Carried.**



## 9. BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Chair introduced the 2016-17 Business Plan Progress Report and referred discussion to the Dir who tabled the oneOutback Prospectus. Members were reminded to forward their final comments to the Chair by 23 May.

The Members noted the Business Plan Progress Report.

## 10. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

The Chair summarised the meetings that she attended since the last OCA meeting including:

- Two Leigh Creek Futures meetings and believes that the OCA is on track with its obligations with Leigh Creek.
- Two Nuclear Consultative Committee meetings and confirmed that this group will continue to meet and that the OCA Members will be kept informed of progress regarding this matter.

The Chair reported that the Dir attended a meeting with OZ Minerals and that there is a want to have a more collaborative relationship between the OCA, the SA Arid Lands Natural Resource Management board and Regional Development Australian Far North which she welcomes.

The Chair advised that meetings have been sought with ATLA but unfortunately mutually acceptable times have been difficult to confirm.

The Chair referred to the Climate Change and Adaption plan and advised that she had recently attended an energy forum where she had presented and spoken about the plan. The Chair confirmed that the plan had been delivered in the outback recently and has started to gain traction. The Chair noted that the methodology is being used to assist with accessing community development funding.

The Chair reported that she has been advised that the application through the National Centre of Excellence in Desalination for the Future Water CRC bid was unfortunately unsuccessful.

## 11. MEMBERS REPORT

Member Ferguson advised that she had been invited to attend a meeting at Witchelina and confirmed that the Witchelina volunteer group are very interesting although a different demographic than the Farina volunteers group.

Member Fort reported that she had visited Innamincka recently on a business trip with Member Michelmore also attending. Member Fort advised that the Innamincka Solar Project is well underway, that the proposed date for 'Go Live' is 27 June 2017 and that when the project is launched it is anticipated that there may be some media and political attention.

Member Fort also reported that she had participated in the Australian Institute of Company Directors course in November/December 2016 and successfully completed the course on 14 March 2017.

On behalf of the Members, the Chair congratulated Member Fort on the successful completion of the course.

Member Fennell reported that he had attended a Pastoral Board meeting in Leigh Creek which was also attended by other government representatives. Member Fennell advised that he was surprised that there seemed to be little knowledge at the meeting of the OCA's involvement with the Leigh Creek transition.

## 12. SECTION 11 COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 12.1 Andamooka Town Management Committee

The Chair tabled confirmed meeting minutes from the Andamooka Town Management Committee from 25 October 2016, noting the ongoing activities that have been occurring.

## 13. DIRECTORS REPORT

The Dir tabled his report and provided a summary of the activities that he has been involved in including:

- Planning budgets and activities for 2017-18
- Progressing the Outback Community Parks project, the Outback Sport and Recreational Strategy project, the Oodnadatta Waste Water System audit, the community insurance audit and also the public conveniences audit.

The Dir summarised the meetings that he has attended on behalf of the OCA, including:

- The Rural Property Addressing 'roll out' across the outback region, where the Gov M also attended.
- Drought Risk Assessment Workshops.
- The Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback Task Force meeting.
- The Leigh Creek Futures meeting
- A teleconference with OPTUS regarding the 'roll out' of small cell sites across the outback region.

The Dir tabled an extensive list of operational activities that have occurred since the OCA's January meeting and also provided an update on Leigh Creek activities.

## 14. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

There were no Confidential Orders discussed.

#### 15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair declared that a meeting has been scheduled for 21 June 2017 to be held in Adelaide to discuss strategic direction initiatives.

The meeting closed at 2.00pm.

