

Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

16 December 2020

Meeting No. 97

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 Kharti Munainty Meeting Room, 50 Flinders Street, Adelaide

16 December at 2.00 pm

Present:

W McIntosh (Presiding Member), J Fort, F Frahn, M Marsland, C Michelmore,
and L Warmington (OCA Members); M Sutton (Director, OCA),
B Gough (Governance Manager, OCA), and B Honan (Business Services Manager, OCA).

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Presiding Member welcomed everyone to meeting 97, the final meeting for 2020 of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA), acknowledging and thanking outgoing Members Marsland, Michelmore and Roach for their contribution toward the Outback whilst serving on the Outback Communities Authority.

An apology from Member Roach has been received.

2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

None received.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

The Presiding Member confirmed that he is a member of the Blinman community.
Member Warmington confirmed that he is member of the Penong and District Progress Association (Penong community).

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2020 were circulated.

Moved by Member Michelmore
Seconded by Member Fort

That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 23 October 2020, meeting number 96 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 8, Meeting No.95)

The Director confirmed that a workshop will be held in February 2021 to consider 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 Pastoral Board Consultation (Ref. agenda item 7, Meeting No.96)

The Director confirmed that correspondence has been provided back to the Pastoral Board within the consultation deadline, therefore this matter to be removed from the action list.

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

Further to the workshop held earlier in the day the Director confirmed that a briefing has been provided to the Minister providing an update of the Outback Futures project, therefore this matter to be removed from the action list.

5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

6. OCA BUSINESS

- 6.1 Lake Eyre – Analysis of the impacts and opportunities an event has on the region – receipt and release of the Kati Thanda/Lake Eyre Economic Analysis Report (Ref. N20-01/12)

The Director tabled the Kati-Thanda/Lake Eyre Economic Analysis Project final report as provided in partnership with the Regional Development Australia Far North (RDA FN). The Director referred to the virtual format where the report was presented by SC Lennon and Associates on 7 December.

The Board agreed that the report was very informative and agreed that a joint media release from the OCA and RDA FN announcing the report was appropriate.

Moved: Member Marsland

Seconded: Member Michelmore

That The OCA :

- *Note the update on the Kati-Thanda/Lake Eyre Economic Analysis Project;*
- *Receive the Kati-Thanda/Lake Eyre Economic Analysis Project Report and approves that it be released in partnership with the RDA FN.*

Carried

- 6.2 Regional Development Australia Far North Quarterly Report to September 2020

The Governance Manager tabled the Quarterly Report to September 2020, outlining significant achievements mentioned in the report, including but not limited to:

- Discussions with the Leigh Creek Community Progress Association regarding the future of the local Foodland;
- 22 consultations with 13 businesses in the OCA region regarding business support and advice;
- Regional visits were undertaken at Andamooka, Woomera, Pimba, Marree, Copley, Leigh Creek, Kingoonya, Lyndhurst, Blinman, Parachilna, Wilpena Pound, Rawnsley Park and Oodnadatta.

The OCA noted the Regional Development Australia Far North Quarterly Report to 30 September 2020.

- 6.3 Finance Report – 30 November 2020

The Presiding Member referred to the Business Services Manager who tabled the Finance Report as at 30 November 2020, noting:

- the late payment received from the Regional Growth Fund
- nine Outback communities will receive funding from the National Australia Day Council through the COVID Safe Program
- \$51,750 in funding through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program has been released to Outback communities
- the extensive Outback projects approved for funding through the Drought Communities Program Rounds 1 and 2.

The Business Services Manager referred to the community waste water system at Oodnadatta which has received extensive essential maintenance and that the infrastructure budget lines require close monitoring to ensure as close as possible, expenditure remains within budget.

The OCA noted the finance report as at 30 November 2020.

Ms Marg Howard, Project Manager, Outback Futures Committee joined the meeting.

7. SECTION 11 COMMITTEE REPORT – OUTBACK FUTURES

The Outback Futures Project Manager provided an update regarding the progress of the Outback Futures Project including:

- A subsequent second round of community engagement was undertaken in December facilitated via webinars.
- A comprehensive report regarding the engagement has been developed
- A video of the final webinar content presentation – what we heard – December 8 is available at: <https://youtu.be/Mh23RE0bDJE>
- The webinars were attended by a total of 45 people, including facilitators.
- Proposals discussed at the first two webinars were further tested at the final webinar
- Three other concepts were discussed in more detail at the first two webinars and again tested for support at the final webinar, regarding the OCA Board, the Outback Pass and the Outback Levy
- A briefing has been provided to the Minister for Planning and Local Government regarding the progress of the Outback Futures Project.

The Project Manager referred to the outgoing Members and new Members commencing with the Board on 1 January 2021 and that the Outback Futures project will continue, being handed on to the new Board.

The Board noted and extended their appreciation to the Project Manager for the work done to date on the Outback Futures project.

Moved: Member Marsland

Seconded: Member Michelmore

That the OCA notes the Section 11 update and resolves to:

- *Endorses the key principles as developed by the Outback Futures Committee in response to what was heard in the community consultation process.*
- *Assigns the continuation of the Outback Futures project to the incoming Board*
- *Writes a letter of thanks to Outback Futures Committee members, Ms Sue Chase AM and Mr Ross Sawers, for their work on the project, and invites them to meet with the Board at its first workshop of 2021.*

Carried

8. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business to discuss.

9. BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled the 2020-21 Business Plan Action Plan. The Director provided a summary of progress across the Business Plan including the release of the Aussie Travel Code and the Outback Futures project, adding that the COVID restrictions have definitely delayed progress in some areas.

The Director advised that a second round of funding has been allocated under the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program. Discussions are currently occurring between the Office for the OCA and the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) to identify eligible projects. Further information will be provided at the January meeting of the OCA.

The Members noted the Business Plan Action.

10 PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

The Presiding Member advised that the Outback Futures review has dominated his attention since the last Board meeting, having had ongoing discussions with the Director and also considered the unusual situation where major governance recommendations are being considered, at a time when there is a change in the composition of the OCA Board membership. The Presiding Member also advised that he believes that the current Board will leave an enduring and forward thinking legacy in its Outback Futures conclusions and that it will be important for the incoming Board members to gain an appreciation and ownership of those recommendations early in 2021.

Regarding the Outback Futures project, the Presiding Member referred to:

- a ministerial letter and briefing that he attended to on behalf of the Board regarding progress with the Outback Futures project
- two webinars he had participated in which were aimed at providing further consultation opportunities.

The Presiding Member confirmed that he participated in a phone consultation with Bicycle SA on the proposed Parachilna/Leigh Creek trail including discussion around emergency management issues and the need to ensure that an indemnity agreement with landholders is negotiated and agreed (similar to that which occurs with the Heysen Trail).

The OCA noted the Presiding Member's report.

11. MEMBERS REPORT

Member Marsland referred to the six years served on the OCA Board adding that she has enjoyed being able to contribute to the OCA, whilst working alongside wonderful people and learning about the Outback. Member Marsland wished everyone who is continuing on, all the very best.

Member Michelmore echoed Member Marsland's sentiments adding that he also had thoroughly enjoyed his time on the Board, learning about the Outback and enjoyed contributing to the OCA. Member Michelmore also wished continuing Board Members all the very best.

Member Fort summarised the projects that she has been involved in, since the last OCA meeting:

- The second draft of the SATC Regional Visitor Strategy (RVS) is underway with the focus for Flinders Ranges and Outback to increase overnight visitation via greater regional and cross regional collaboration around touring routes. Member Fort advised that new products, infrastructure and capability building are seen as critical for success, adding that she is using her influence to have the Aussie Travel Code (ATC) included in the strategy using the following wording:

- Promote the Aussie Travel Code which raises awareness around respect of the natural environment, local community, pastoral and traditional owners.

Priorities for the RVS are under the headings of Marketing/Experience and Supply Development/Collaboration/Industry Capability/Leisure and Regional Events

- The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) facilitated a workshop on 26/11/20 with the objective of enabling an understanding of support available for emerging and existing cultural tourism businesses. I am supportive to the development of a Cultural Tourism Advisory Group for the South Australian Northern Region and I have invited the Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Facilitator, Port Augusta City Council - Yarta Purtili to the Flinders Ranges and Outback Meeting and Planning Day on the 14/1/21. The invitation has been accepted and I hope this is the beginning of a positive story with formal cultural representation on the FRO Board.
- I attended a series of meetings with the Lake Eyre Basin Community Advisory Committee. (LEB CAC) where recommendations in relation to the Lake Eyre Basin - were to review and endorse 5 discussion papers:
 - Effective Partnerships with Aboriginal People/Managing Climate Change/Oil and Gas Activities/Impacts on Floodplain Flow/Invasive Species.
 - The Aboriginal Way Map developed by my predecessor to this group was a sticking point.
 - The Aboriginal Way Map was discussed at length and whilst I was reassured that its distribution was progressing there was no indication of when this would happen.

Member Fort added that for now, visitation to our region has settled and many operators have either reduced or temporarily closed their businesses; while overall, the region enjoyed a prosperous year with many operators reviewing and altering their business plans in line with a post COVID-19 world.

Member Frahn raised the matter that the Outback is facing a problem where we find volunteers having to fill the gaps where skilled employees should be doing the work, resulting in an inconsistency in managing and delivering to the public. Member Frahn added that volunteers' efforts are admirable but more funded positions under the OCA would alleviate this potential problem.

Member Frahn concluded her report by adding that the Rising Stars program that she is participating in is progressing very well and the projects that the participants are working on have the potential to be game changers for our region.

Member Warmington referred to a recent photo shoot held at Lake MacDonnell, near Penong which caused some controversy due to a lack of communication by the organisers

prior to the event occurring. Member Warmington added that increased consultation could very well have averted most of the problems that occurred.

12. DIRECTORS REPORT

The Director tabled his report acknowledging the high levels of service and support achieved by the Office for the OCA since the October meeting. The Director advised that the Outback Futures project continues to dominate his and the Office for the OCA's time and went on to summarise the notable outcomes, including

- 2019-20 Annual Report – briefing prepared and provided to the Minister regarding OCA asset values.
- Drought fund projects – milestone reports submitted for all projects
- Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCI) projects (Round 1) – agreements set out for community projects and procurement plans developed for OCA projects
- Leigh Creek Task Force – Cabinet has considered final recommendations; an announcement regarding the future of Leigh Creek is scheduled for 17 December in Leigh Creek. The Director will be present for this announcement
- Aussie Travel Code – ongoing discussions regarding increased promotion
- Carbon Forum – deferred until February 2021 – Discussion paper embargoed until this forum
- Tourism Forum – deferred until February 2021
- Office accommodation, proposed move date is 1 February
- Machinery of government changes – 1 December the Office moved to AGD
- Lake Eyre Economic Analysis – final report presented and received
- OCA Board nominations – appointments approved by Cabinet and have been advised

The Director formally thanked the Governance Manager who joined the OCA in 2014 and Business Services Manager who joined in 2004 who have made a good contribution and have been instrumental in the business of the OCA.

The Director advised that he envisages recruitment will commence by the end of January, looking to have positions in place by March 2021.

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

13. CORRESPONDENCE REGISTER

The Director tabled the Correspondence Register for the period 16 October to 10 December 2020.

The OCA noted the Correspondence Register.

14. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

There are no Confidential Orders.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Director suggested that the next OCA meeting scheduled to be a teleconference, should be a face to face meeting, held on 20, 21 January 2021 in Port Augusta.

The Presiding Member thanked Members Marsland and Michelmore for the two terms that they have served and Member Roach for her term and their contribution to the Outback; the OCA has benefitted from their expertise over the years. The Presiding Member congratulated Member Fort on her reappointment.

The Presiding Member also thanked the Governance Manager and Business Services Manager for their contribution to the OCA, as they both look to commence extended leave.

The meeting closed at 4.30pm.

w. michelmore 21-1-21