

# Minutes

## Outback Communities Authority

20 February 2020

Meeting No. 90

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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

20 February 2020 at 10.35 am

### Present:

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

### 1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Presiding Member welcomed everyone to meeting 90 of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA). An apology was received from Member Roach who expressed her concern in her inability to attend recent meetings. In accepting the apology the Members note Member Roach's difficulty in attending meetings due to work commitments and that she is currently considering her position.

### 2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

2.1 The OCA noted the informative presentation from the Chief Executive Officer, Regional Development Australia Far North as per the resource agreement.

2.2 The OCA noted a request from the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association (APOMA) for a formal deputation for the next OCA meeting. Referred to agenda item 15.

### 3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Member Fort as Chair of Flinders Ranges and Outback declared an interest in the proposal submitted to the Drought Communities Programme, Round 2 for funding to invigorate the Tread Lightly initiative.

### 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2019 were circulated.

Moved by Member Fort  
Seconded by Member Marsland

*That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 12 December 2019, meeting number 89 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 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, confirming that the Office for the OCA (OOCA) continues to work with the Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure to have the Treasury budget amended.

4.2.2 Risk Management – Strategic Management Planning (Ref. agenda item 6.6, Meeting No.87)

The Director confirmed that this matter is in abeyance and will be dealt with through the Outback Futures project.

4.2.3 Lake Eyre – Analysis of the Impacts and Opportunities an Event has on the Region (Ref. agenda item 6.1, Meeting No.88)

The Director advised that the contract for service for the Lake Eyre – Analysis of Impacts and Opportunities an Event has on the Region remains ongoing although it is very close to being finalised.

4.2.4 Member's Report (Ref. agenda item 10, Meeting No.88)

The Presiding member referred discussion to the Director who confirmed that correspondence addressed to Minister Whetstone regarding drought conditions in the outback has been delayed and he noted that discussion occurred during the recent Premiers Drought Forum Roadshow where the community articulated those concerns during the Marree session, therefore this matter to be removed from the Action List.

4.2.5 Cat Management Plan for South Australia (Ref. agenda item 6.2, Meeting No.89)

The Director confirmed that the OCA has responded to the RSPCA and Animal Welfare League regarding the Cat Management Plan for South Australia, therefore this matter can be removed from the action plan.

4.2.6 Isolated Children's Parents' Association (Ref. agenda item 6.3, Meeting No.89)

The Director confirmed that sponsorship support has been confirmed with the ICPA, therefore this matter to be removed from the action plan.

4.2.7 Regional Development Australia Far North (Ref. agenda item 6.4, Meeting No.89)

The Presiding Member referred to the informative presentation delivered earlier in the day by the CEO, RDA FN, therefore this matter to be removed from the action plan.

4.2.8 SA Regional Visitor Strategy (Ref. agenda item 6.5, Meeting No.89)

The Presiding Member referred to the Director who advised that this matter has been actioned and can therefore be removed from the action plan.

4.2.9 Finance Report (Ref. agenda item 6.6, Meeting No.89)

The Presiding Member referred to discussion held earlier in the day where a review of the OCA's 2019-20 budget occurred, therefore this matter to be removed from the action plan.

4.2.10 Outback Water Stations (Ref. agenda item 7.1, Meeting No.89)

The Director confirmed that water stations located at Beltana, Marree, Marla, Oodnadatta, Kingoonya and Yunta have been recalibrated to provide dispensed water at a reduced cost, noting that this arrangement will remain in place until April 2020.

5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

6. OCA BUSINESS

6.1 Regional Development Australia Far North (RDA FN) Quarterly Report to December 2019 (Ref. N20-01/02)

The Director tabled the quarterly report provided by RDA FN. The Board noted the significant achievements mentioned in the quarterly report including but not limited to ongoing support provided for the Drought Communities Programme Round 2, planning the rollout of a Digital Solutions Program workshop to be held early in 2020 and meetings with Progress Associations across the OCA region.

The OCA noted the Regional Development Australia Far North quarterly report to 31 December 2019.

6.2 Finance Report – January 2020 (Ref. N20-02/02)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled the finance report as at 31 January 2020. The Director referred to the review of the OCA's 2019-20 budget, undertaken on the previous day where it was noted that required expenditure on several operational areas are likely to impact on the outcome of the OCA's 2019-20 budget resulting in a deficit budget, being:

- the significant increase in office accommodation rent that has occurred with no consultation with the Office for the OCA;
- major maintenance is very likely to be required on the Community Waste Water Management system located at Oodnadatta; and
- the retrofit of servicing the water stations located at Marla and Oodnadatta.

The Director confirmed that the OCA is unable to reallocate externally funded project funds to alleviate the pressure on the OCA's operational budget. The Members acknowledged the need for more investment in the region; has sought to address this and is working with the Outback Community as to how that may be funded in the future. However at this point in time, the OCA has had no increase in funding to support community aspirations that have been identified.

The Members acknowledged the Drought Communities Programme has provided some relief to the OCA's reduced ability to support community based initiatives.

Moved by Member Michelmore  
Seconded by Member Fort

*That the OCA Board request the Presiding member to write formally to the Chief Executive, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure:*

- (a) expressing the Board's surprise and disappointment at the very significant increase in the Annual Rental for the premises at 12 Tassie Street Port Augusta, advice of which has recently been received from DPTI;*
- (b) advising that this rental increase represents a further impost on the OCA's Annual Budget, which has already been under significant pressure;*
- (c) advising that the increase is at odds with the Board's understanding of the current rental market in Port Augusta, and therefore requesting detailed explanation and justification of the new rental figure.*

Carried.

## 7. URGENT BUSINESS

### 7.1 Outback Communities Authority 2020-2025 Strategic Management Plan

The Presiding Member referred to a workshop held on the previous day where the Draft 2020-2025 OCA Strategic Management Plan was discussed.

The Members noted the pending review of the Strategic Management Plan required by legislation and agreed that this process should be consistent with the wider consultation process that will be facilitated by the Outback Futures Committee.

The Members acknowledged the connectivity and rationale between the 2020-2025 Strategic Management Plan and the Outback Futures project, agreeing that a key strategy of the new plan will be to progress the Outback Futures project. The Members referred to the Strategic Directions 2018-2020 document and agreed that information in that document be included in the draft 2020-2025 Strategic Management Plan. The Members noted that no significant measurable outcomes have been included in the draft document, acknowledging that the final report from the Outback Futures project may result in a variation to the 2020-2025 Strategic Management Plan.

Moved by Member Marsland  
Seconded by Member Warmington

*That the OCA approves the draft 2020-2025 Strategic Management Plan for community consultation subject to inclusion of the recommendations from the Board and with the final approval of the Presiding member for a period of four weeks commencing mid-March 2020.*

Carried.

## 7.2 Drought Communities Programme, Round 2

The Director referred to a workshop where the Members reviewed submissions seeking funding through the Drought Communities Programme Round 2. The Members acknowledged the hardship endured by the outback region experiencing drought conditions, welcoming the opportunity to endorse projects that will increase economic viability across the region. When considering the many submissions received, the Members noted the intended outcomes of the program; to deliver support to targeted drought affected regions of Australia by funding projects that target infrastructure and that:

- provide employment for people whose work opportunities have been impacted by drought
- stimulate local community spending
- use local resources, businesses and suppliers
- provide a long-lasting benefit to communities and the agricultural industries on which they depend.

The Members acknowledged that the programme was oversubscribed by more than double and the OCA has done its best to ensure that the projects endorsed have been considered both equitably and fairly across the outback region affected by drought and in line with the funding criteria.

The Director confirmed that projects that have been endorsed by the OCA will now be submitted to the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities for approval.

Moved by Member Frahn  
Seconded by Member Michelmore

*That the OCA endorses the list of projects to be submitted to the Drought Communities Programme (DCP) second allocation of \$1 million for the unincorporated areas of South Australia.*

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 summarised progress made on the Business Plan noting that as the 2019-20 year has progressed some strategies may be incorporated into the delivery of the Outback Futures project. The Director confirmed that most of the Asset Management

Plans are complete and that the next edition of the oneOutback newspaper is due in early March.

The Director confirmed that the 2020-2021 Business Plan must be provided to the Minister by May which will result in the consultation coinciding with the Outback Futures consultation.

The Members noted the Business Plan Action Plan.

## 9. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

The Presiding Member tabled his report advising that he has been involved in ongoing discussions with the Director regarding the Outback Futures Committee remuneration and summarised the meetings that he has participated in:

- On 3 February he attended the Community Consultative Committee for Edicaran Heritage, established by the Department of Environment and Water. The Presiding Member advised that this matter is at a point where it can be more publically discussed as negotiations are being finalised. The Members agreed that the Ediacaran fossil heritage, centred around the Ediacara Reserve is an exciting opportunity – a good reason to bring visitors to the outback.
- The Presiding Member advised that he accompanied the Director to Marree on 11 February to attend a meeting regarding drought affected pastoral areas. The meeting was hosted by the Premier and the acting Minister for Primary Industries and Resources, Dan van Holst Pellekaan was also present. The Presiding Member confirmed that discussion included road conditions, specific drought assistance, communications and access to secondary education boarding, adding that the Premier's address was well received.
- On 14 February he attended the State Bushfire Coordination Committee meeting in Adelaide as the OCA nominee, noting that the meeting did not have any direct implications for the outback areas.
- On 18 February attended the Barndioota Consultative Committee meeting at Hawker, having recently been appointed as a full member representing the OCA. The Presiding Member advised that the last round of the Community Benefit Program funding of \$2 million is soon to be released.
- On 12 February attended the Leigh Creek Task Force consultation meeting where discussion relating to the facilities at Leigh Creek and how they might benefit the Blinman community and surrounding area occurred.

The Presiding Member also confirmed that he has been involved in various media interviews.

The OCA noted the Presiding Member's report.

## 10. MEMBERS REPORT

Member Fort reported that on 12 February she had attended the Tourism Industry Council SA Tourism Summit on 12 February, representing Flinders Ranges and Outback (FRO) and the FRO Planning Day on 16 January where projects for the second half of this year were agreed, being:

- Digital marketing which will include Social Media Management/Website Maintenance and Content/Mentoring and support
- Melbourne Consumer Show
- Moving footage and photography – project with Heidi Lewis and videographer Aaron Nassau.

Member Fort confirmed that FRO are still waiting on the outcome of the Building Better Regions Round 2 submission – a coaching and mentoring program directed at developing local leaders and encouraging entrepreneurship, to be delivered online.

Member Frahn advised that she had attended the Hawker Drought Forum as a community member, referring to similar issues raised in the Presiding Member's report. Member Frahn reported that whilst at the Forum, concerns were raised by a member from the Outback Community regarding the increasing pressures faced by volunteers and volunteer organisations and the impact on volunteers experiencing drought conditions who are already extremely time poor.

Moved by Member Frahn  
Seconded by Member Michelmore

*That the OCA write a letter to the Premier acknowledging the recent Drought Forums held across the Outback and accepting the invitation to provide a list of initiatives to assist drought affected regions, as raised at the Forums.*

Carried.

## 11. DIRECTORS REPORT

The Director tabled his report advising that maintenance was required during the Christmas/New Year period with the Oodnadatta Community Waste Management System and confirmed that a long term solution requires significant investment.

The Director confirmed that the water station at Kingoonya and Yunta have been commissioned and are operating, with the Innamincka station due to be completed in the next financial year. The Director confirmed that all water stations have been visited and recalibrated to allow for dispensed water to be at a reduced rate, as a result of the OCA's December meeting decision.

The Director advised that the Outback Futures project is progressing with the Project Manager position being close to being internally advertised, with the view that the position will be filled by early to mid March.

The Director advised that the collation and assessment of projects to be considered for funding through the Drought Communities Programme, Round 1 has taken priority for the last few weeks, confirming that funding agreements for Round 1 projects have been provided.

The Director referred to the appointments of staff based at Leigh Creek, confirming that inductions have taken place and Ms Neldner and Ms Cotter have settled in well.

The Director highlighted an emerging issue relating to community insurance, noting that a future workshop discussion is likely to occur.



In summary the Director confirmed that the proposed National Radioactive Waste Management Facility (NRWMF) at Wallerberdina concluded with a 'no' vote gaining the majority of votes resulting in the Commonwealth Minister for Resources announcing that the Wallerberdina site would not be considered as a future site for the NRWMF.

The Director referred to meetings that he had recently attended including meeting with senior management of 1414 Degrees regarding the development of a proposal for a power generation plant, north of Port Augusta, within the OCA's area. The Director tabled an extensive list of activities/meetings that the OOCA staff have been working on.

The OCA noted the Director's report.

## 12. SECTION 11 COMMITTEE REPORT – OUTBACK FUTURES

The Director confirmed that there is no report to receive, however he notes that the Members support an approach to the Minister to provide an update on the progress of the Outback Futures project, in particular how that fits in with the Strategic Management Plan review, required by legislation.

The Director confirmed that the Minister will be in Port Augusta on 12 March and enquiries will be made as to whether he and the Presiding Minister can meet with the Minister on that day.

## 13. CORRESPONDENCE REGISTER

The Director tabled the Correspondence Register for the period December 2019 to mid-February 2020.

The OCA noted the Correspondence Register.

## 14. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

No Confidential Orders were discussed.

## 15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The OCA noted that the next scheduled meeting is a teleconference to be held on 19 March 2020 if required.

The Presiding Member referred to the request for a deputation from APOMA. The Members agreed to hold the April 2020 meeting in Andamooka, subject to the availability of the community to host the OCA and move the meeting date to 29, 30 April.

The meeting closed at 12.45 pm.

*W. M. L. T. H.*

18-5-20