

Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

23 May 2019

Meeting No. 85

Members:

C Woolford (Chair)

J Booth, M Fennell, J Fort, M Marsland, C Michelmore, T Roach

Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

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

23 May 2019 at 9.00 am

Present:

C Woolford (Chair), J Booth, M Fennell, J Fort, M Marsland, C Michelmore and T Roach, (OCA Members), M Sutton (Director, OCA), B Gough and B Honan (OCA staff).

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to meeting 85 of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA), noting that this is the last meeting as outgoing Chair and the last meeting for outgoing Member, Mrs Joyleen Booth.

The Chair confirmed that an apology has been received from the Manager, Office of Local Government.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2019 were circulated.

Moved by Member Booth
Seconded by Member Fort

That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 21 March 2019, meeting number 83 as circulated to Members, be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

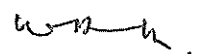
Carried.

3.2 The minutes of the electronic meeting held during April 2019 were circulated.

Moved by Member Marsland
Seconded by Member Fennell

That the minutes of the meeting held during April 2019 vide electronic means in accordance with section 10(5) of the Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009, meeting number 84 as circulated to Members, be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Carried.



3.3 Business arising from minutes.

3.3.1 2018-19 OCA Budget (Ref. agenda item 4.3.2, Meeting No. 75)

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

3.3.2 OCA 2019-20 Business Plan and Budget (Ref. agenda item 7, Meeting No.83)

The Chair referred to the Director who confirmed that correspondence has been forwarded to the Minister regarding the OCA's 2019-20 Business Plan and Budget, therefore this matter can be removed from the Action List.

3.3.3 State of the Outback Report (Ref. agenda item 9, Meeting No.83)

The Chair referred to the Director who confirmed that a media release regarding the State of the Outback Report has been released and information is available from the OCA's website, therefore this matter can be removed from the Action List.

4. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

5. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

The meeting was suspended at 10.00am when the Chair presented Mr Graeme Austin, Secretary, Pimba Progress Association with a Certificate recognising his volunteer effort through the Premier's Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Volunteer Service program.

The meeting resumed at 10.30am.

The Director departed from the meeting.

6. OCA BUSINESS

6.1 Draft 2019-20 Business Plan and Budget (Ref. N19-01/05)

The Chair referred discussion to the Governance Manager who advised that consultation on the draft 2019-20 Business Plan and Budget commenced on 15 April 2019 and concluded on 18 May 2019.

The consultation process consisted of providing access to the document on the OCA website, or requesting a hard copy from the OCA office, along with advertisements appearing in the Advertiser and regional newspapers advising of the consultation.

The Governance Manager confirmed that no comments have been received.

The Members discussed the budget framework, noting no change to the 2019-20 budget.

Moved by Member Michelmore
Seconded by Member Fennell

That the OCA seek the approval from the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government for the 2019-20 Business Plan and Budget.

Carried.

6.2 Dog and Cat Management – Authorised Officers (Ref. N19–02/05)

The Chair referred discussion to the Governance Manager who advised that under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* (the Act), the OCA may appoint an authorised person with or without condition. The appointment of an Authorised person(s) will enable the OCA to undertake its responsibilities under the Act and enable the engagement of another Authorised Officer to act in the OCA's region.

Moved by Member Fennell
Seconded by Member Roach

That the OCA appoint Mark Sutton and Byron Gough as authorised persons for the purposes of the Act without conditions.

Carried.

6.3 2019-20 Dog Registration Fees and Cat Management (Ref. N19–03/05)

The Chair referred discussion to the Business Services Manager who tabled the proposed dog registration fees for 2019-20, recommending no increase in fees from 2018-19, except for business registrations.

The Business Services Manager advised that it is pleasing to see a positive response from outback dog owners as there has been an overall increase in dog registrations in 2018-19, compared to the previous year.

The Business Services Manager also recommended that the OCA waive dog registration fees during June 2019, explaining that dog registrations are an annual cost and that in most cases the expectation of a dog owner seeking registration in June is highly unlikely, when the annual registration would be due in July.

Moved by Member Marsland
Seconded by Member Michelmore

That the OCA resolves to:

- *Approve the dog registration fees as tabled for 2019-20 and advise the Dog and Cat Management Board by 30 May 2019.*
- *Waive dog registration fees for the month of June 2019.*

Carried.

6.4 2018-19 Budget Monitoring Report as at 30 April 2019 (Ref. N19-04/05)

The Chair referred discussion to the Business Services Manager who tabled the Budget Monitoring Report as at 30 April 2019, advising that a recent announcement from the Australian Government confirmed early payment of the Financial Assistance Grant program. The early payments will have a direct effect on the estimated budget outcome for 2018-19.

The Business Services Manager explained that the Supplies and Services budget line will be underspent come 30 June 2019, attributing this to the OCA being unable to fill positions at Leigh Creek sooner. The Business Services Manager congratulated the Asset and Works Officer who has been managing the contract and agreements at Leigh Creek, ensuring business continuity throughout the recruitment process.

The Business Services Manager advised that outback communities have responded well to the 2018-19 Community Affairs Resourcing and Management agreement processes, accessing allocated funding, although three communities remain somewhat non-compliant, unlikely to receive any funding at all.

The Outback Communities Authority noted the April 2019 Budget Monitoring Report.

Moved by Member Michelmore
Seconded by Member Roach

That the OCA Board recognises that high priority must be placed on the sustainability of the existing core Services provided by the organisation, and of the core Assets which it owns and maintains, in order to benefit the people of the Outback.

To achieve this, the Board notes that the following will be required:

- 1) The funding, annually, of an effective ongoing maintenance and repair program for those core Services and Assets;*
- 2) The funding of an appropriate long term Capital Replacement program for many elements of those Services and Assets; and*
- 3) Following an annual review, the possible divestment / transfer by OCA of certain existing Services and Assets if they are no longer considered to be core to its operations, or if they are beyond the financial resources of the OCA to maintain them under its Budget framework.*
- 4) The quantification of 1), 2) and 3) above to identify the necessary reduction of monies made available to fund Community initiatives through the Grants Program.*

Carried.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

7.1 Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016 – Authorised Officers (Ref. N19-01/05)

The Chair referred discussion to the Governance Manager who referred to complaints that the OCA receives relating to the state of land within local communities which in some instances could lead to adverse events in communities.

The Governance Manager explained that the OCA has some regulatory powers similar to those of a local government council, but lesser in effect and councils have historically found it difficult to enforce those powers in certain situations.

The Governance Manager advised that Parliament enacted the Litter Act to better address incidences of hoarding and littering.

The Governance Manager explained that the Environmental Protection Authority acknowledges that the OCA at present cannot administer or enforce any part of the Litter Act and has recommended the OCA request the Minister for Environment and Water to authorise staff for the purposes of the Litter Act. Authorised OCA staff will be able to expiate, when and if required.

The Director returned to the meeting.

Moved by Member Marsland
Seconded by Member Roach

That the OCA request the Minister for Environment and Water to authorise Mark Sutton and Byron Gough for the purposes of the Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016.

Carried.

7.2 Regional Development Australia Far North Local Government Funding Agreement 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2022

The Chair referred discussion to Member Michelmore who confirmed that he and the Director had considered the agreement and although a few minor changes have been suggested, there is no change in substance.

Member Michelmore recommended that the agreement be adopted, subject to the amendments suggested by the Governance Manager which will result in no material changes.

Moved by Member Michelmore
Seconded by Member Fort

That the OCA executes a three year funding agreement based on the draft provided with Regional Development Australia Far North in the sum of \$70,000 per annum

Carried.

8. BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who tabled the 2018-19 Business Plan Action Plan.

The Director provided a summary of ongoing work and anticipated outcomes, including:

- the One Outback Prospectus that remains ongoing.

- the development of an Outback Tourism Destination Management and Marketing Plan that has not progressed, therefore this has been identified as a priority action in the new financial year.
- mobile phone coverage remains ongoing, noting good progress has been achieved in 2018-19.
- enthusiasm to further explore more effective service delivery to clusters of outback communities has not been forthcoming, therefore this action is in abeyance.
- the management of strategic infrastructure which recently resulted in public toilet cleaning contracts upgraded, receiving a positive response.
- the OCA's new newsletter which will be bought online in the next financial year and is still believed to be a very good method of getting information out to remote communities.

The Members noted the Business Plan Action Plan.

9. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

The Chair advised she attended the Nature Foundation SA Witchelina Nature Reserve working bee in early May. The Chair confirmed that the event was well organised with approximately 80 volunteers attending. The OCA received acknowledgement for the UHF repeater tower erected in 2016 at Witchelina.

The Chair advised that the costs associated with her attendance at this event was originally estimated to be approximately \$650, however upon review the actual cost was \$1151. The OCA acknowledged this and approved the increase in reimbursement.

The Chair advised that she had also attended a world heritage meeting adding that the world heritage listing proposal is gathering a lot of momentum. The Chair confirmed that the government has taken a section out of the Nilpinna Station lease to protect the Ediacaran Fossils, confirming that this has not detracted from the Station which is still able to operate as a Station. The Chair advised that South Australia is still approximately 2-3 years behind the world heritage site in south eastern Victoria, which is already with the World Heritage Committee. The Chair confirmed that there are six to eight sites across the Flinders Ranges, the bid will not only be about Nilpinna.

The Chair advised that on 14 May she had met with the Infrastructure SA Board in Whyalla at a luncheon hosted by the Eyre Peninsula Councils. At this event she sat with the Head of Treasury and was introduced to the Chief Executive of the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

The Chair thanked the Board Members and staff for their support, during her two terms serving as the OCA Chair, referring to the energy and commitment required to lead in this position. The Chair referred to her initial intentions when taking on the role, citing raising the OCA's influence, increasing staff levels and to make overall change in outback SA as her prominent goals, which she feels has largely been met. Working with the then General Manager to have the position reviewed and called at Director level resulted in OCA presence at meetings not achieved before, which has also assisted with raising the profile of the OCA.

The Chair referred to the strong media presence that has occurred during her term, while underpinning the good strong relationships with outback residents referring to the OCA Act: articulate the views, interests and aspirations of outback communities.

The Chair commended the Board and staff on the significant role that the OCA has played in the transition of Leigh Creek to SA Government.

The Chair concluded by encouraging the Members to embrace change as the structure of the Board will change with incoming Members. She acknowledged the broad skill level of the Members and thanked the Members and staff for their support, adding that she is proud of her contribution.

10. MEMBERS REPORT

Member Fort summarised her tabled written report and spoke about the impact of the recent rain events and the flow into Lake Eyre, which although is a boom for the region, also impacts on local infrastructure.

Member Fort confirmed that she has undertaken the role of Chair with Flinders Ranges and Outback (FRO) and supports the concept of a collaborative voice, keen to work with other organisations such as the OCA and RDA FN.

Member Fort referred to the Digital Marketing Strategy which is rolling out across social media and other platforms and will include webinars in the future.

Member Fort advised that FRO has been working closely with the SA Tourism Commission (SATC) on a photoshoot, aiming to capture images which have not been acquired in previous shoots and including as many operators as possible. FRO will report back to SATC in July.

Member Fort confirmed that the future of FRO is really dependent on financial liability which is not confirmed, noting that a volunteer base underpins FRO.

Member Fort summarised the round table meeting that she recently attended providing an opportunity to speak with Minister Ridgeway where the lack of funding available to support tourism and the sealing of the Strzelecki Track, among other topics was discussed.

Member Roach advised that management of the Leigh Creek Outback Resort has recently been undertaken by a local Leigh Creek resident who also manages the local service station and caravan park. Member Roach provided a brief summary of the ongoing transition of Leigh Creek and how this is affecting the local residents.

The Director confirmed that he is optimistic that the appointment of the Community Development Officer to be based at Leigh Creek will provide much needed local support.

The Chair advised of a recent announcement by Minister Whetstone confirming the recent appointment of the Director as Chair on the Community Advisory Panel to the new Regional Development Strategy. The Regional Development Strategy aims to reform how government prioritises investment in regional South Australia, through holding extensive community forums. Fourteen forums will be held across a broad area of locations, commencing mid-June. The Chair advised that a strong panel has been appointed and following the consultation process a draft Regional Development Strategy will be provided to the Minister for consideration.

The Board congratulated the Director on his appointment as Chair to the Community Advisory Panel.

11. DIRECTORS REPORT

The Director advised that since the March meeting the Office for the OCA has been busy across many disciplines including sport and recreation development, water station evaluations, staff recruitment and dog management.

The Director confirmed that the consultation for the OCA's draft 2019-20 Business Plan and Budget has been finalised although consultation is ongoing for the 2019-20 Community Affairs, Resource and Management agreements with Andamooka and Iron Knob which has been led by the Governance Manager. A report will be provided to the Board once consultation with the Andamooka and Iron Knob communities has been finalised.

The Director confirmed that recruitment processes have occurred for the two positions at Leigh Creek, although no announcement has been made as yet.

The Director summarised various meetings that he has attended including but not limited to the Product Commission, regarding the review of remote area tax concessions; Chair of the Leigh Creek Task Force; Department of Treasury and Finance and DPTI regarding the OCA's budget bid and the media event at Beltana where the Regional Growth Grants were announced.

The Director tabled an extensive list of operational activities that the Office of the OCA have been involved in since the March meeting.

12. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

No Confidential Orders were discussed.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Members noted that the next meeting is a Teleconference scheduled for 20 June 2019, if required. Due to the change in OCA Board membership as at 1 July 2019, no formal meeting schedule is available at this point in time, until the announcement of the incoming Chair.

Prior to the end of the meeting, the Members each took the opportunity to thank the outgoing Chair, Cecilia Woolford for her great dedication to the cause of the Outback Communities Authority and for her leadership throughout her term as Chair of the OCA Board along with outgoing Member Joyleen Booth for her commitment and dedication to the OCA.

The meeting closed at 12.00 noon.