

# Minutes

## Outback Communities Authority

20 September 2017

Meeting No. 70

Members:

C Woolford (Chair)

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



# Minutes

## Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held at the Fowlers Bay Community Hall on 20 September 2017 at 3.00 pm

### Present:

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

### 1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Director opened the meeting and acknowledged that an apology has been received from the Presiding Member due to ill health and advised that section 10 (2) of the *Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009* 'the Act' provides that in the absence of the Presiding Member from a meeting of the Authority a member chosen by those present will preside at the meeting. The Director called for nominations for a Member to Chair the meeting.

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

That Member Michelmore Chair the meeting.  
It is noted that there were no further nominations.  
Member Michelmore accepted the nomination.  
It is therefore declared that Member Michelmore Chair the meeting.

**Carried.**

The Chair welcomed everyone to meeting 70 of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) held in the scenic location of Fowlers Bay.

Apologies received from Ms Cecilia Woolford, Ms A Hart, Manager, Office of Local Government and Mr Don Hogben, General Manager, Planning and Transport Policy, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI).

It is noted that the Director is acting in the position of Manager, Office of Local Government, however for the purposes of this meeting, he is performing OCA Director duties.

### 2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

### 3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Director declared that he is the Deputy Chair of Regional Development Australia Far North, referring to agenda item 6.3.

#### 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2017 were circulated.

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

*That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 20 July 2017, meeting number 69 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 who provided an update on Oodnadatta including the possible appointment of an Administration Officer, the reopening of the community store that has resulted in local employment opportunities and confirmed that contracts have been finalised to deliver municipal services to the Oodnadatta community. The Director added that a formal request for assistance from the Dunjiba Community Council has not been received, however it is hoped that this matter will be included in the OCA's November meeting.

The Director referred the Members to his report, agenda item 13 for further information on this matter.

4.2.2 Auditor General's 2015-16 Report (Ref. Agenda item 6.5, Meeting No. 65)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who tabled the OCA Financial Management Compliance Framework which has been endorsed by DPTI. The Director referred to his report, agenda item 13 and tabled a Minute received from the Acting Chief Finance Officer, Investment Services, DPTI advising that the Control Self-Assessments analysis has indicated that the OCA has a moderate to high level of compliance with the financial management compliance objectives; this has given assurance that the operations of the OCA are being managed appropriately.

The Director confirmed that DPTI are continuing to support the OCA with developing the Risk Register and have contacted the Office for the OCA regarding assistance with the development of a Business Continuity Plan.

4.2.3 Outback Memorial Park (Ref. Agenda item 6.4, Meeting No. 65)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who advised that unfortunately due to conflicting work priorities this matter has been deferred until the next OCA meeting.

4.2.4 Public Toilet Facilities on the Barrier Highway (Ref. Agenda item 6.1, Meeting No. 66)

The Chair referred discussion to the Governance Manager who advised that an extensive analysis of the report received from Tonkins Consulting Pty Ltd has been undertaken which has taken more time than anticipated. The Governance Manager advised that any impact to outback communities as a result of the



OCA divesting itself of public toilets will be included in the report. The Governance Manager confirmed that an analysis of budget spending specific to public toilets is also being undertaken and will be provided to the Members to ensure that the best use of the budget occurs in supporting the direction that the OCA wants to achieve. The Governance Manager confirmed that this matter will be discussed at the next OCA meeting where background information will be provided enabling the OCA to make an informed decision.

4.2.5 Deputations/Presentations (Ref. Agenda item 2, Meeting No. 67)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who advised that the next operational update is due at the OCA's December meeting.

4.2.6 oneOutback Prospectus Communications Plan (Ref. Agenda item 4.2.5, Meeting No. 67)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who tabled a copy of the oneOutback Prospectus which is very close to being finalised. The Director advised that he has kept the Chair informed verbally of all progress regarding this matter and that a formal launch is likely to occur in October including a mail out to stakeholders. The Director advised that a further update will be provided at the November meeting.

4.2.7 Andamooka Town Management Committee (Ref. Agenda item 12.1, Meeting No. 69)

The Chair referred discussion to the Governance Manager who advised that letters of thanks to the five Andamooka Town Management Committee Members, thanking them for their service have been delayed due to the Chair's illness.

## 5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

## 6. OCA BUSINESS

6.1 Sale of Land for Non-Payment of Community Contribution (Ref. N17-01/09)

The Chair referred discussion to the Governance Manager who advised that the OCA has the discretion to recover outstanding debt by invoking section 184 of the Local Government Act 1999 and sell land for non payment of a community contribution.

The Governance Manager reminded the Members that a Community Contribution Scheme has been in place in Iron Knob since 2013 and over this time some debt remains outstanding, although there are instances where the registered proprietor is untraceable and therefore the option to recover the unpaid community contribution is unlikely to succeed, if the usual process is followed.

The Governance Manager reported that since this process has been implemented in Andamooka, the debt associated with the community contribution has dropped significantly, noting that no parcels of land have had to be sold. The Governance



Manager recommended that the sale of land for non-payment of levies should always be an option of last resort.

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

*That the Outback Communities Authority resolves to:*

- *Recognise that the primary focus of this process is to have the outstanding community contributions paid.*
- *Commit to a process of selling land for non-payment of community contribution.*
- *Note that individual cases may be terminated prior to land sale in the event outstanding community contributions are paid.*

Carried.

6.2 Draft OCA Conduct of Business Policy (Ref. N17-02/09)

The Chair referred discussion to the Governance Manager who referred to the workshop held earlier in the day where discussion regarding the draft policy had occurred.

The Members noted the Treasurer's Instructions, Commissioner's Determinations, Premier and Cabinet circulars and procedural guidelines provided as supporting documentation at the workshop.

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

*That the Outback Communities Authority resolves to:*

- *Adopt the draft OCA Conduct of Business Policy with minor amendment to the policy statement as discussed.*
- *Repeal: OCA Establishment of Committees Policy, Members Professional Development Policy, Member's Expense Reimbursement Policy and Meeting Procedures of the Outback Communities Authority.*
- *Approve a consultation process to inform communities of the change in policy and the repealing of the respective OCA policies.*

Carried.

6.3 Correspondence Register ( Ref. N17-03/09)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who referred to the workshop held earlier in the day where the draft Correspondence Register was tabled and discussed. The Chair of the day (Michelmore) and the Director advised that Chair (Woolford) has firm views regarding the Correspondence Register and recommended that this matter be adjourned until the next OCA meeting.

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

*That the Outback Communities Authority note the Correspondence Register and resolves to adjourn this matter until the next OCA meeting.*

Carried.



6.4 Regional Development Australia Far North Local Government Funding Update (Ref. N17-04/09)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who tabled the quarterly report for the period 1 April 2016 to 30 June 2017 received from the Regional Development Australia Far North (RDA FN).

The Director confirmed that the report is provided as a key performance indicator listed in the Local Government Core Funding Agreement currently in place between the RDA FN and the OCA.

Member Ferguson raised the matter of large trucks accessing outback roads, whether any consultation had occurred with outback residents and if the OCA has a role with any consultation on this matter. The Director advised that the OCA had not been engaged on this matter by RDA FN and that RDA FN are dealing with this on behalf of its funding partners. The Director is however aware through DPTI of changes in heavy vehicle access on some Outback roads.

The Director undertook to follow up on this matter and report back.

Member Ferguson also enquired about the Tourism position co-funded by the OCA. The Director confirmed that positive feedback has been received regarding this position and that the RDA FN are providing services across the workforce including tourism and business development, that the OCA is not a position to provide.

The Director confirmed that the RDA FN will provide its annual presentation to the OCA at a future meeting, to be confirmed.

The OCA noted the quarterly Local Government Core Funding Agreement report provided by RDA FN and look forward to further updates.

6.5 Financial Result for 2016-17 (Ref. N17-05/09)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who referred to the tabled report on the financial outcome for 2016-17.

The Director confirmed that the biggest impact on the financial outcome had come from the transition of Leigh Creek to SA Government and the associated funding provided by the Department of Treasury and Finance which resulted in an overall budget improvement.

The Director confirmed that the preliminary cash balance of \$967,000 can be mainly attributed to the two early Financial Assistance Grants from the Commonwealth and the under spend in the Leigh Creek budget line. The Director also confirmed that the cash balance is still required to be monitored, particularly if the monies outstanding from the two community contribution schemes are not reduced.

The Director confirmed that the OCA was unsuccessful in its bid to secure Commonwealth funding through the Building Better Regions Fund for the proposed outback water project and that this result has seen a change in focus for the capital expenditure budget which will now concentrate on replacing the public toilets





located at Innamincka and completing the outback water stations located at Marla and Oodnadatta.

The OCA noted the financial result report and associated explanations of the budget improvement for 2016-17.

6.6 2017-18 Budget Monitoring Report – August 2017 (Ref. N17-06/09)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who tabled the Budget Monitoring Report as at 31 August 2017.

The Director advised that carry overs for underspend in 2016-17 for the Outback Recreation and Sport Open Space Strategy, Leigh Creek, Outback Community Parks Upgrade and Copley water infrastructure have been sought. Should any of the carry overs not be successful careful reallocation of the budget will be required.

The Members discussed the Local Government Grants Commission's two forward payments and the impact that this can have on the OCA's annual budget.

The Chair enquired about the formula used when forecasting the full year intra government revenue. The Business Services Manager undertook to follow up on this and report back to the Members.

The OCA noted the August 2017 Budget Monitoring Report.

## 7. LEIGH CREEK UPDATE

### Leigh Creek Transition Update

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who provided an extensive update regarding the ongoing transition of Leigh Creek to becoming an open town. The Director confirmed that the new Leigh Creek Community Progress Association has received its Certificate of Incorporation and has developed a new Constitution. The Director advised that improvements continue in Leigh Creek including improved signage, refurbishment to the Leigh Creek Airport Terminal, Training Room, Aroona Room and Town Administration Office and updates to Google Maps and several other popular phone applications to ensure tourists have access to current regional information.

The Director confirmed that the six-week pilot training trial had gone well and further progress has been made in streamlining town operations ensuring maximum cost efficiency.

The Director also confirmed that there had been a workplace incident at Leigh Creek and that the employee has embarked on a return to work program.

The Director provided a brief summary regarding housing opportunities in Leigh Creek, although he reminded the Members that the OCA is not responsible for the housing but rather the delivery of municipal services.

Member Ferguson advised that there is some distress regarding housing at Leigh Creek and the lack of information surrounding this matter. The Director advised that Members will



be provided information regarding housing and other transitional matters as information becomes available.

The Director outlined a number of ongoing initiatives that the OCA will be involved in including, but not limited to the:

- Expression of Interest process for the Leigh Creek Caravan Park
- Exploring a Visitor Information Outlet in Leigh Creek
- Seeking RV friendly town status for Leigh Creek
- Working with Flinders Management Services regarding the broadening of the current service and looking at a recycling option.

The OCA noted the continued work relating to the Leigh Creek transition and successes to date, however they requested a briefing be provided as soon as practicable regarding the future management of housing and commercial infrastructure at the next OCA meeting.

## 8. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business to be discussed.

## 9. BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Director advised that due to conflicting work priorities the 2017-18 Business Plan Action Plan could not be provided for this meeting, however it will be available for the November meeting.

## 10. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

Due to the Chair's apology, no report was tabled.

## 11. MEMBERS REPORT

There were no Member reports tabled.

## 12. SECTION 11 COMMITTEE REPORTS

12.1 There are no Section 11 Committees operating, therefore no matters to consider.

## 13. DIRECTORS REPORT

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who tabled his report and advised that he is still acting in the Manager, Office of Local Government role.

The Director referred to the Building Better Regions Fund grant opportunity, discussed during agenda item 6.5.





The Director referred the Members to the attachment relating to the Great Tracks Cleanup Crew, which the OCA has supported for some years. The Director confirmed that this group of people set a focus every year on specific outback routes collecting and clearing rubbish. The Director confirmed that the OCA has supported the group this year by allowing access to the Leigh Creek waste site.

The Director provided a summary of meetings that he had attended, an extensive list of operational activities that have occurred since the OCA's July meeting and a report card detailing OCA achievements from 2016-17.

#### 14. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

There were no Confidential Orders discussed.

#### 15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Members noted that the next scheduled meeting is a teleconference to be held on 19 October, if required, or a formal meeting scheduled for 8, 9 November 2017 to be held in Port Augusta.

The meeting closed at 4.55 pm.

