

Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

19 September 2018

Meeting No. 79

Members:

C Woolford (Chair)

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



Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held at the Australian Inland Mission Building, Innamincka

19 September 2018 at 1.30pm

Present:

C Woolford (Chair), M Fennell, J Fort, C Michelmore, M Marsland 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 79 of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) and extended thanks to the Innamincka community for hosting the meeting. The Chair acknowledged the public gallery and the importance of the OCA seeing firsthand the challenges faced by communities on a daily basis.

The Chair confirmed that an apology has been received from Member Booth and Ms A Hart, Manager, Office of Local Government.

2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Chair noted a conflict of interest declared by Member Fort in relation to agenda item 6.1

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 2 August 2018 were circulated.

Moved by Member Marsland
Seconded by Member Roach

That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 2 August 2018, meeting number 78 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 Outback Memorial Park (Ref. agenda item 6.4, Meeting No. 65, agenda item 6.4, Meeting No. 71, agenda item 6.4)

The Chair confirmed that it is disappointing to report that there has been no progress on this matter and although the matter is deferred, the Chair encourages the Board to consider achieving this project in the future.

- 4.2.2 Asset Sustainability Levy (Ref. agenda item 10, Meeting No. 73)

The Chair referred to the Director who confirmed that this matter remains ongoing.

- 4.2.3 Draft 2018-19 Business Plan and Budget (Ref. agenda item 6.1, Meeting No.75)

The Chair referred to the Director who advised that the Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) Corporate Finance have advised that this matter will be considered during the mid-year budget review.

- 4.2.4 Leigh Creek Transition (Ref. agenda item 7, Meeting No.77)

The Chair referred to the Director who confirmed that advice received from DPTI regarding the OCA's request to have unspent Leigh Creek budget allocation from 2017-18 carried over to OCA general budget expenditure has not been approved. The Director confirmed that the Leigh Creek budget allocation is tied specifically to that project. The Director advised that the Asset and Works Officer has taken on some duties in relation to Leigh Creek since the resignation of the Manager, Leigh Creek Contracts and Services and he is aware that workloads must be balanced across the Office for the OCA until resources for Leigh Creek have been finalised.

- 4.2.5 Leigh Creek Transition (Ref. agenda item 4.2.5, Meeting No.78)

The Chair advise that an overview regarding the Leigh Creek transition has been included in the Director's Report, later in the agenda.

5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

6. OCA BUSINESS

Member Fort declared a conflict of interest and departed from the room.

- 6.1 Flinders Ranges and Outback Tourism Forum (Ref. N18-01/09)

The Chair referred to the Director who tabled correspondence received from the Chief Executive Officer, South Australian Tourism Industry Council requesting that the OCA consider contributing and being an event partner for the forthcoming Flinders Ranges and Outback Tourism Forum.

The Director explained that the Forum is scheduled for 12, 13 November 2018, to be held in Port Augusta where the focus will be developing strategies and opportunities for a successful and sustainable Flinders Ranges tourism industry.

The Director referred to the Outback Tourism Destination Management and Marketing Plan as identified in the OCA's 2018-19 Business Plan confirming it is one of the four key priorities contained within the oneOutback Prospectus.

The Members discussed the request acknowledging that the OCA provides funding to Regional Development Australia Far North which supports the development of regional economic outcomes and that due to a competing priority identified in the OCA's 2018-19 Business Plan there is not sufficient budget to support the request.

**Moved by Member Michelmore
Seconded by Member Fennell**

That the OCA:

- *notes the letter received from Mr Shaun de Bruyn, Chief Executive Officer of the South Australian Tourism Industry Council, dated 30 July 2018 inviting the OCA to become an event partner in the forthcoming Flinders Ranges and Outback Tourism Forum advertised for 12 and 13 November 2018 in Port Augusta; and*
- *declines the offer to become an event partner and to make a contribution of \$10,000, or any other amount towards the forum.*

Carried.

Member Fort returned to the meeting.

6.2 Financial Management Compliance Program (Ref. N18-02/09)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who tabled a minute received from the Director, Finance and Risk in DPTI to the Director regarding the OCA's Financial Management Compliance Program (FMCP) Report 2017-18.

The Director reminded the Members that in 2017 the OCA commenced developing the FMCP with support from DPTI, which the Members consequently endorsed on 20 September 2017. The Director confirmed that the FMCP has been undergoing review and was provided to DPTI at the end of June 2018. A subsequent report from DPTI indicates that control self-assessments analysis undertaken in the FMCP indicates a moderate to high level of compliance with the financial management compliant objectives, confirming the OCA has continued to maintain a high standard since developing the FMCP in 2016-17.

The Board noted the amount of effort required to provide and monitor the FMCP and although concerns were raised regarding how much time has been spent by staff not only on this document but generally on compliance matters within DPTI, the Board reiterated that they are very pleased with the result.

**Moved by Member Fennell
Seconded by Member Fort**

That the OCA:



- *note the minute from the Director, Finance and Risk in the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure to the Director of the OCA re the Financial Management Compliance Program Report – 2017-18.*
- *acknowledge the time and energy required in creating the Financial Management Compliance document enabling the Board to be quite assured that the OCA's Financial Management Compliance Program is in line with government expectation.*

Carried.

6.3 OCA Volunteer Support Policy (Ref. N18-03/09)

The Chair referred discussion to the Governance Manager who tabled the OCA Volunteer Support Policy provided for routine review.

The revised policy reiterates the OCA's acknowledgement of volunteers, the need to work with volunteers and referred to section 4 (b) of the *Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009*.

Moved by Member Roach
Seconded by Member Michelmore

That the OCA:

- *adopts the revised OCA Volunteer Support Policy with minor amendment; and*
- *approves a process to inform communities of the change in policy.*

Carried.

6.4 OCA Internal Review of OCA Decisions Policy (Ref. N18-04/09)

The Chair referred discussion to the Governance Manager who tabled the OCA Internal Review of OCA Decisions Policy provided for routine review.

The Governance Manager explained that the revised Internal Review of OCA Decisions Policy reiterates the OCA's commitment to open, responsive and accountable governance and recognises its decisions must be fair, objective and subject to review.

The Governance Manager advised that the Policy also recognises the need for supporting procedural guidelines to be developed setting out a process to be followed when needed.

Moved by Member Michelmore
Seconded by Member Marsland

That the OCA:

- *adopts the revised OCA Internal Review of OCA Decisions Policy;*
- *approves a process to inform communities of the change in policy; and*
- *notes that the procedure document will follow.*

Carried.



6.5 2017-18 Budget Monitoring Report as at 31 August 2018 (Ref. N18-05/09)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who tabled the Budget Monitoring Report as at 31 August 2018.

The Director explained the income and expenditure variances and confirmed that the OCA was successful in securing funding totalling \$675,000 over the next three years through the Building Better Regions fund which will result in six self-contained water treatment systems located across the outback. The Director added that specific to 2018-19 the OCA will receive \$225,000 funding and will contribute \$75,000 from the Capital Expenditure budget.

The Director advised that it is pleasing to note that ten Community Affairs Resourcing and Management agreements have already been returned, signed.

Member Roach elected to leave the room as discussion relating to Leigh Creek in general and local business ventures commenced.

Member Roach returned to the meeting.

The Outback Communities Authority noted the August 2018 Budget Monitoring Report.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

8. BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

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

The Director reviewed the 2018-19 Business Plan Action Plan. General discussion followed regarding the implementation of actions including the importance of the oneOutback Prospectus, development of an Outback Tourism Strategy and that the Office for the OCA has commenced conversations with communities in the northern Flinders Ranges region regarding more effective service delivery, noting that this matter will continue to be explored throughout 2018-19.

The Director also advised that he is investigating a new approach to a quarterly produced newsletter which will have a strong outback influence with participation from outback communities.

The Director advised that he will continue to review the 2018-19 Business Plan Action Plan but indicated that some actions may not be delivered as a result of totally committed office resources.

The Members noted the Business Plan Action Plan.



9. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

The Chair advised that along with the Director, she met with the DPTI audit team and agreed that the 2017-18 audit proceed. The Chair advised that during the meeting discussion included OCA staff leave entitlement liabilities and the subsequent impact to the OCA's financial situation.

The Members agreed that clarification be sought from DPTI confirming who is liable for staff entitlements and the representation of unspent cash reserves.

The Chair advised that she had a satisfactory meeting with Minister Knoll and recommended that correspondence be forwarded to the Minister reporting on the regional trip, outback challenges and how the OCA delivers its business and that the OCA is looking to provide a Business Plan which will support its bid for additional funding to assist with more effective service delivery.

The Chair also advised that she was invited to a small private dinner with Minister Speirs, Minister for Environment and Water to talk to people in the region regarding the Landscape SA Act, which was very productive. The Chair added that in her opinion, the small Natural Resource Management groups are working well and it is evident that there is a commitment from the people involved.

The Chair added that the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility site ballot remains on hold with the Kimba community and Bungala Native Title Holders in negotiation which is likely to take some time until resolved.

10. MEMBERS REPORT

Member Fort reported on the recent Birdsville Races, the Flinders Ranges and Outback SA Tourism (FROSAT) meeting held on 1 August and also the Regional Chair's meeting held in Adelaide on 3 August. Member Fort explained the background to FROSAT and its support for the Regional Visitor Strategy 2020.

Member Fort's full report is provided as Appendix I.

Member Fennell advised that the Pastoral Board is investigating the issues for small Pastoral leases that are within council areas and the OCA may be asked for comment.

Member Fennell advised that there is likely to be an increase of people moving to Marla, as a result of the closure of Mintabie and he encouraged Planning SA to be proactive in the region to avoid illegal structures being erected and having an impact on the Marla community. It was noted that the OCA is preparing a formal submission to the Future of Opal Mining in Mintabie request from the Department of Energy and Mining and that this information will be included in that submission.

11. DIRECTORS REPORT

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who tabled his report and provided a brief summary of the meetings and activities that he has been involved in since the OCA's August meeting, including meeting with Minister Knoll, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government and Minister for Planning, which the Chair also attended.



The Director confirmed that feedback has been received from cleaning contractors regarding the reduction in cleaning hours which has resulted in ongoing negotiation with the contractors. The Director advised that if a cleaning contractor cannot be confirmed, the OCA will have no option but to close those public toilets impacted.

The Director advised that he attended the Landscape SA reform community meetings held in Leigh Creek and Marree in early September.

The Members noted the Director's report and the extensive activities that the Office for the OCA have been involved in since the August meeting.

12. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

No Confidential Orders were discussed.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Members noted that the next scheduled meeting is a Teleconference scheduled for 11 October 2018, if required.

The meeting closed at 4.20 pm.



Member Fort's Report - September 2018

General Notes:

- I went to the Birdsville Races and returned via Innamincka and the Strzelecki Track.
- Approximately 6,000 people attended the Birdsville Races and there was good flow through Innamincka.
- The Birdsville Track is in extremely poor condition.
- The Strzelecki Track was quite good especially at the Mumpy end.
- The Walkers Crossing road is a better alternative to the Cordillo road if travelling between Birdsville and Innamincka. The Cordillo road is in very poor condition.

Flinders Ranges and Outback South Australian Tourism (FROSAT) Meeting 1/8/18 - Port Augusta

FROSAT Background:

- FROSAT is the regional tourism organisation for the Flinders Ranges and Outback region.
- The purpose of FROSAT is to advocate and speak for tourism in the region.
- FROSAT is an Incorporated Association consisting of between 5 and 12 Board members who volunteer their time to contribute to the management and administration of FROSAT.
- FROSAT is committed as an industry advocate and will identify objectives and associated strategies to influence and support the development of unique experiential opportunities for our visitor economy – so that tourism continues to be a major economic driver in the Flinders Ranges and Outback region.

FROSAT is completely supportive of Regional Visitor Strategy 2020 in particular to align resources more effectively.

Until August 2018 grant funding from SATC for the purpose of Local Contact Officer Services to support Regional Tourism Initiatives was received by FROSAT. Under this agreement Grant funding was payable in 3 instalments until 2020. The FROSAT committee agreed with SATC to terminate this arrangement in favour of RDAFN receiving and managing the funds directly. The rationale for this was that -

- The role of Regional Tourism Manager (RTM) is recruited and managed by Regional Development Australia Far North (RDAFN)
- Financial governance – FROSAT received the funding and this was redirected to RDA to contribute to the salary of the RTM
- The RTM is not an 'executive officer' to FROSAT – this person simply has a seat at the FROSAT table

This Funding is secured until 2020 between the SA Tourism Commission (SATC) and RDAFN. Currently the role of the RTM is vacant with the resignation of Ben Boothby in September.

I have spoken with Claire Wiseman, CEO RDAFN and I am assured this role will be filled but in the meantime there is a gap in resources which will impact the region.

Claire will attend the next FROSAT meeting on 10/10/18 to clarify the role of the RTM in relation to FROSAT.



Regional Chairs Meeting 3/8/18 SATC - Adelaide

Received a report on the Regional Visitor Strategy (RVS).

The focus of the meeting was Industry Capability – that raising this capability is a shared objective and responsibility. Key stakeholders are SA Tourism Industry Council (SATC)/RDA/Regional Tourism Operators (RTOs) and local councils.

A key issue identified was that our visitors to region are turning to digital platforms for trip inspiration, planning, booking and sharing. Better coordinated and targeted digital marketing, aligned with SATC's strategies is required across all regions.

In response to this there was a presentation from Tourism ESchool re digital capacity building. This project was based on a multi region buy-in and minimum of 20 participants per region at cost \$100K.

There was support for the concept but expressed the following:

- Need to align with SATC digital
- Reservations about cost
- Need for industry buy-in
- Exploration of potential funding sources (Regional Growth Fund)

The project was referred for further discussion and planning with view to preparing a submission for the next round of funding.

From an OCA perspective I feel my representation at Regional Chairs Meetings at SATC is beneficial.

Met with Peter Cahalan 5/9/18 at SATC

- Discussion regarding Flinders Ranges and Outback – he informed me of priorities SATC had identified re roads/road related infrastructure/Wi-Fi/Airstrips/Signage/Trails in the FRO region
- Discussion on the benefits of using social media influencers to help market branding to new audiences and targeted audiences relevant to region.

Regional Tourism Forum November 12 and 13

I am currently working with FROSAT/SATIC/Department for Environment and Water (DEW) to have a successful and well represented Forum.