

Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

13 August 2015

Meeting No. 54

Members: G Beltchev (elected as Chair for the meeting in the absence of
Cecilia Woolford)

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



Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held at the Outback Communities Authority office, 12 Tassie Street, Port Augusta
on 13 August 2015 at 10.20 am

Present:

Mr G Beltchev (Chair)

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

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Ms C Woolford, Outback Communities Authority (OCA) Chair and Member Chris Michelmores.

Moved by Member Marsland

Seconded by Member Booth

That Member Beltchev is voted in as Chair for the day.

Carried.

2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2015 were circulated.

Moved by Member Fort

Seconded by Member Booth

That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 21 May 2015, number 52 be adopted.

Carried.

- 4.2 The minutes of the meeting held via electronic means in accordance with section 10(5) of the *Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009* held during the month of June 2015 were circulated.

Moved by Member Ferguson
Seconded by Member Fort

That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority electronic meeting number 53, held during the month of June 2015 be adopted.

Carried.

4.3 Business arising from minutes.

- 4.3.1 Outback Waste Management (Ref. N13 – 05/11, Meeting No. 39 and N14 – 01/03, Meeting No. 45)

The Governance Manager (Gov M) advised that no progress has been made on this matter due to inconclusive communication with SANTOS. The Gov M confirmed that the OCA is waiting on a draft agreement to be put into place with SANTOS and will investigate again to confirm the progress of this matter.

- 4.3.2 Community Insurance Review (Ref. Agenda Item 6.2, Meeting No. 50)

The Gov M advised that a summary of information received from the Crown Solicitor will be provided to the Members at the next OCA meeting.

- 4.3.3 Risk Management Framework (General Discussion, Meeting No. 51)

The Director (Dir) advised that initial planning has commenced on developing a Risk Management Framework and it is envisaged that a draft document will be available at the next OCA meeting.

- 4.3.4 Presiding Member's Report (Meeting No. 52)

The Dir confirmed that the OCA is scheduled to meet with the Pastoral Board on 19 November 2015 in Adelaide.

5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

6. OCA BUSINESS

- 6.1 Draft 2015-2016 Annual Business Plan and Budget (Ref. N15 – 01/08)

A workshop held on 12 August 2015 provided the opportunity for the OCA to consider the feedback and comments received during the 4 week consultation on the Draft 2015-2016 Annual Business Plan and Budget.

The Gov M advised that two submissions have been received and that the submissions did not give rise to a substantial change to the Business Plan or Budget.

The Gov M confirmed that the Minister has received a copy of the Draft 2015-2016 Business Plan and Budget and was advised of the 4 week consultation period.

The OCA noted that the budget includes the revenue and expenses associated with the Andamooka and Iron Knob Community Contribution Schemes.

After considering the submissions received regarding the OCA's Draft 2015-2016 Annual Business Plan and Budget the OCA agreed that no further amendments are required.

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

That the OCA provides the Minister with a copy of the submission report and recommends to the Minister that he approve the 2015-2016 Business Plan and Budget.

Carried.

6.2 Water Industry Act - Compliance (Ref. N15 - 02/08)

The Gov M provided a customer charter, a dispute resolution process and a standard sales contract relating to the provision of water. The Gov M explained that the OCA is licensed by the Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA) to provide water to the residents of Copley. Under the Water Industry Act 2012, the OCA is deemed to be a minor retailer which requires the OCA to adopt a customer charter, a dispute resolution procedure and a contract for the sale of water. The Gov M confirmed that any modification to the information provided must be approved by ESCOSA.

The Gov M confirmed that the terms and conditions of connection, supply and disconnection and the resolution of disputes are identified in the documents provided. The Gov M confirmed that the generic examples as provided by ESCOSA includes matters not relating to the OCA and therefore require minor amendment, constituting ESCOSA's approval.

The Gov M advised that ESCOSA has expressed a view that authority regarding reporting functions be delegated to the Chief Executive (or equivalent) as the timely submission of ESCOSA annual compliance reports is important.

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

That the OCA:

- *Seeks formal approval from the Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA) for the modifications made to the customer charter, the dispute resolution procedure and the contract for the sale of water.*
- *Adopts the customer charter, the dispute resolution procedure and the contract for the sale of water on the date the modifications are approved by ESCOSA.*
- *Delegates authority to sign ESCOSA compliance reports on behalf of the OCA to the Director in accordance with the Instrument of Delegation (I-02).*

Carried.

6.3 Insurance – Ongoing Arrangements for the OCA (Ref. N15 - 03/08)

Further to information provided at the March 2015 meeting the Dir advised that as of 30 June 2015 the South Australian Insurance Corporation (SAICORP) confirmed that insurance arrangements have transitioned from Local Government Risk Services (LGRS), the LG Asset Mutual Fund and the Local Government Association Mutual Liability Scheme (LGAMLS). The Dir confirmed that the coverage with SAICORP is consistent with the coverage provided by LGAMLS and LGRS and that the OCA is insured in its own right, rather than under the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

The OCA Members noted that the community insurance component has remained with LGRS.

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

That the OCA:

- *Notes the ongoing arrangements for the provision of insurance coverage for OCA public liability and assets requirements.*
- *Formally thank Local Government Risk Services and the Local Government Association Mutual Liability Scheme for their service and support to the OCA and its predecessor the Outback Areas Community Development Trust over many years.*

Carried.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

7.1 Associate Membership LGA (Ref. N15 - 04/08)

The Dir tabled information received from SA Local Government Association inviting the OCA to renew its Associate Membership. The Dir confirmed that although the OCA is not a formal Council constituted under the *Local Government Act 1999*, it is recognised as a local government authority under the *SA Local Government Grants Commission Act 1992* for financial assistance grant purposes and as a 'local government' body for grant funding programs administered by the Commonwealth Government.

Moved by Member Marsland
Seconded by Member Ferguson

That the OCA approve Associate Membership of the (SA) Local Government Association.

Carried.

7.2 Financial and Procurement Authority Delegations (Ref. N15 - 05/08)

The Gov M requested that the OCA Members delegate financial and procurement authority to the Director consistent with current arrangements and the level of financial and procurement authority delegated to the Director by the Chief Executive of the Department of Planning and Transport (DPTI).

The Chair requested that a review of the current financial and procurement authority delegated to the Director be undertaken and if processes have not changed, the current delegated authority will continue, until amended.

The Dir confirmed that a report will be provided at the next OCA meeting which will confirm what actions have been undertaken under delegation.

7.3 Economic Reporting

The Dir referred to the workshop held on 12 August 2015 with Regional Development Australia Far North (RDA FN), relating to the RDA FN developing investment briefs to collect data in the OCA's region. The Dir confirmed that the OCA has an opportunity to partner with the RDA FN on this project which would result in more specific data becoming available for the OCA's use. The Members agreed that the data would be very useful for future planning and would assist the OCA with its 2015-16 Business Plan objectives. The OCA confirmed its support for the broadening of the scope of data collection that forms part of the RDA FN's project.

Moved by Member Ferguson
Seconded by Member Fort

- *That the Director explore with Regional Development Australia Far North the broadening of the scope of data collection to provide additional information for the OCA to better inform the OCA's decision making on its activity in the outback.*

- *That the Director make recommendation to the OCA Board on any additional investment required to achieve, as a result of this investigation.*

7.4 Leigh Creek Operations

Further to a workshop held on 12 August 2015 with Mr Steve Dangerfield, Principal, Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback Community Engagement team, the OCA discussed at length what the future may hold for Leigh Creek and the surrounding region as a result of the Alinta Energy's announcement to cease operations.

The OCA acknowledged that the cessation of Alinta Energy's operations at Leigh Creek would have far reaching repercussions for the outback region and that all future opportunities should be explored as soon as possible.

The OCA recognises the roles and responsibilities of the Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback Community Engagement team and support their efforts and acknowledge the large amount of constructive work done by Mr Dangerfield.

Moved by Member Marsland
Seconded by Member Ferguson

That the OCA resolves:

- *To take a lead role, consistent with its responsibility pursuant to s(6) (c) of the Act, in engaging northern communities affected by the Alinta Energy announcement to cease its Leigh Creek operations.*
- *That a working party consisting of the OCA Chair, and Members Beltchev and Ferguson develop a proposal to form a committee to define a mechanism for engagement with affected communities.*
- *That the Chair informs the Minister of the above action.*

Carried.

8. BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Members noted the OCA 2015-16 Business Plan progress report noting the commencement of some of the actions.

The Dir confirmed that the oneOutback process will be reinvigorated through the 2015-16 Business Plan initially with a questionnaire encouraging outback residents and visitors to the region to provide comment on future direction. The Dir confirmed that it is anticipated that the data collected from the questionnaires will help form the oneOutback prospectus document.

9. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

The OCA noted that the Presiding Member's Report will be presented at the next meeting because of her unavoidable apology for this meeting.

10. MEMBER'S REPORT

Member Ferguson advised that she had recently met with Mr Steve Dangerfield in Beltana and discussed the broad perspective of the work he is currently undertaking at Leigh Creek.

Member Fort referred to an email that she had recently received from an outback pastoralist regarding improvements on telecommunications in the outback. This matter has been referred to the Chair and Dir for development of a suitable response.

Member Booth advised that she had attended the National Bronco Branding Titles in Oodnadatta which was well attended. The Members noted that where possible acknowledgement of OCA support at outback events should occur, but note that in some instances sponsorship banners are unable to be freighted to events within time constraints.

11. SECTION 11 COMMITTEES REPORTS

11.1 Andamooka Town Management Committee (ATMC)

The OCA Members noted the ATMC meeting minutes from 19 May 2015. The Gov M confirmed that the ATMC has met since the May meeting but those meeting minutes have not yet been confirmed.

The Gov M advised that the current arrangement with the ATMC office is working well and has settled since the departure of the Town Administrator. The Gov M confirmed that he has met with representatives from the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association to ensure that projects within the community continue to progress without creating an expectation on the ATMC office staff.

The Gov M confirmed that the ATMC is now in its final year of operations under the current Terms of Reference and that a review will be undertaken.

The Gov M advised that the debt collection process is progressing well and confirmed that a further appeal has been lodged with the District Court which will require attendance at the Court in the near future.

12. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Dir tabled his report and advised the Members that his time has been dominated by the announcement that Alinta Energy will cease operations in Leigh Creek. The Dir confirmed that he is now part of a committee specifically tasked with looking at the future of Leigh Creek once the mining operations cease.

The Dir advised that he had recently visited Oodnadatta and Iron Knob and is very pleased that a new management and reporting arrangement with Iron Knob is working well. The Dir advised that there are ongoing negotiations with the Dunjiba Community Council, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Complete Personnel and Rowe Partners to determine the best model for ongoing community support, coordination and management to ensure economic and social sustainability.

The Dir confirmed that the Assets and Works Officer has been advertised internally within the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure and hopeful that the position will be filled in the near future.

The Dir advised that the SA Local Government Association's (SALGA) Regional Youth Traineeship program has been announced by Minister Brock. The program is run over the course of 2 years and will assist unemployed young people to enter the workforce through traineeships in Local Government. The Dir confirmed that the OCA plans to submit an Expression of Interest for 1 Traineeship position funded under the Regional Youth Traineeship program, round 1.

13. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

Nil.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next OCA meeting has been scheduled for 21, 22 October 2015 to be held in Adelaide. The Members acknowledged that there may be a requirement to meet via electronic methods in the interim period prior to the October meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.55 am.