

# Minutes

## Outback Communities Authority

19 November 2015

Meeting No. 56

Members:

C Woolford (Chair)

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



# Minutes

## Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held at LGA Association, 148 Frome Street, Adelaide on 19 November 2015  
commencing at 10.10 am

**Present:**

C Woolford (Chair)

G Beltchev, J Booth, J Ferguson, J Fort, M Marsland, C Michelmore (OCA Members), A Hart (Office of Local Government), J Wright (Contractor), M Sutton, B Gough and B Honan (OCA staff).

**1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that Mr John Wright would be joining the meeting soon.

There were no apologies.

**2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

Nil.

**3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

It is noted that there are no declarations of conflict of interest.

**4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2015 were circulated.

**Moved by Member Ferguson  
Seconded by Member Beltchev**

*That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 22 October 2015, number 55 be adopted.*

**Carried.**



#### 4.2 Business arising from minutes.

##### 4.2.1 Outback Health Services (Ref. Agenda Item 2, Meeting No. 55)

The Director (Dir) confirmed that Country Health have released tender briefs for the continuation of medical services in the outback. The Dir advised that correspondence will be forwarded by the OCA to the Minister for Health outlining concerns for the delivery of future outback medical services. The Dir confirmed that there may be an opportunity in Andamooka for volunteers to play a role in providing some services but the exact nature of the services is yet to be confirmed.

The Dir tabled the meeting action list, there were no questions arising.

#### 5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

#### 6. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

6.1 The OCA will from time to time at the declaration of the Chair, hold discussions 'in camera' where any issues are subject to legal advice from the Crown Solicitors office or are of a sensitive nature. (Ref. CO 15 – 01/11).

Ms Hart departed from the meeting.

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

*That the OCA move into camera due to the confidential nature of discussions regarding CO 15 – 01/11.*

**Carried.**

The Chair moved the meeting out of the in camera session and the meeting resumed.

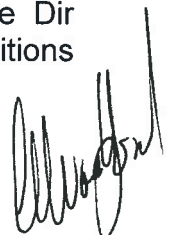
Ms Hart rejoined the meeting.

The Chair welcomed Mr John Wright to the meeting who has been assisting the OCA with strategic budget modelling.

#### 7. OCA BUSINESS

7.1 Regional Development Australia Far North Board membership (Ref. N15 – 01/11)

The Chair introduced the Regional Development Australia Far North (RDA FN) Board membership opportunity and referred to the Dir. The Dir advised that there are currently two designated local government positions



on the RDA FN Board and requested that the Members consider nominating a Member of the OCA to fill one of the positions.

The Dir advised that there is a similar opportunity for four of the other local government partners, being the Port Augusta Council, Coober Pedy Council, Flinders Ranges Council and Roxby Downs Council.

The Dir confirmed that should the OCA's nominee be appointed to the RDA FN Board into one of the local government positions, that the nominee is not representing the OCA on the RDA FN but rather they are a full member in their own right.

**Moved by Member Beltchev**  
**Seconded by Member Marsland**

*That the OCA:*

- *Accept the invitation to nominate a person from the OCA to be considered to be appointed to the RDA FN Board in one of the two designated local government positions.*
- *Note that the person nominating would be there as a member in their own right, and that the OCA nominate Cecilia Woolford.*

**Carried.**

7.2 Isolated Children's Parents' Association (Ref. N15 - 02/11)

The Chair advised that the North West Branch of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association (ICPA) has contacted the OCA seeking financial assistance with hosting its 2016 SA Conference to be held at Roxby Downs on 22 March 2016.

The Dir explained the extensive support provided by the ICPA to students and families who reside in remote areas of South Australia, including distance education, boarding and second home components.

The OCA discussed future funding processes and requested that consideration be given to the ICPA to access OCA funding via a simpler mechanism. The OCA agreed that if any changes are implemented to the current funding opportunities that a regular review be undertaken.

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

*That the OCA:*

- *Provides sponsorship to the value of \$3,000 to the North West Branch of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association for the hosting of the 2016 SA Conference to be held at Roxby Downs on 22 March 2016.*



- *Notes the opportunity for Outback Communities Authority promotion at the 2016 Isolated Children's Parents' Association State Conference.*

**Carried.**

7.3 Dealing with Public Enquiries (Ref. N15 - 03/11)

The Chair tabled the draft Member Public Contact standard operating procedure for approval and referred to the Gov M.

The Gov M explained that the procedure will provide guidelines setting out how enquiries from the general public directed to members, should be dealt with.

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

*That the OCA note the Member Public Contact standard operating procedure.*

**Carried.**

7.4 OCA Small Sports Grants Assessment, Round 1 2015 (Ref. N15 - 04/11)

The Chair introduced the Small Sports Grant Assessment and referred to the Dir. The Dir advised that 6 applications seeking financial assistance had been received through Round 1 of the Small Sports Grants.

The Dir confirmed that an assessment panel comprising of the Community Development Officer, the Business Services Manager and himself considered the 6 applications and have recommended that 5 of the applications be approved for funding. The Dir confirmed that one application was not approved for funding as it did not meet the guidelines as being a program or equipment that initiated sporting activity within a community.

**Moved by Member Michelmore  
Seconded by Member Beltchev**

*That the OCA Board note the approvals of the Assessment Panel for the projects to the value of \$2,500 for the OCA Small Sports Grants program.*

**Carried.**

7.5 2015-16 Budget Monitoring Report – November 2015 (Ref. N15 - 05/11)

The Chair tabled the 2015-16 Budget Monitoring Report which outlines the revised full-year estimates of income, operating expenses and capital expenditure for 2015-16.

The Chair thanked Mr John Wright for assisting the OCA with its strategic financial management.



Mr Wright explained that the Budget Monitoring Report is prepared on an accrual accounting basis and that the report focuses on the full year result. Mr Wright advised that the report reflects the OCA's priorities and will continue to change as priorities emerge within the OCA's operations. Mr Wright advised that the current Budget Monitoring Report will assist with the OCA's long term planning, although depreciation figures require further consideration. Mr Wright confirmed that the Budget Monitoring Report will be provided for each OCA meeting.

The Members agreed that the direction of the Report was excellent and commended Mr Wright for his input.

**Moved by Member Ferguson  
Seconded by Member Michelmore**

*That the OCA notes the 2015-16 Budget Monitoring Report for November 2016.*

**Carried.**

## **8. URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair advised she may be unavoidably absent from upcoming meetings due to other commitments and wished to ensure that all Members were aware of the protocol for the appointment of a Presiding Member if/when the need arises. The Gov Man through the Chair provided advice about the requirements of the Act and how the process of appointing a Presiding Member should be undertaken.

## **9. BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT**

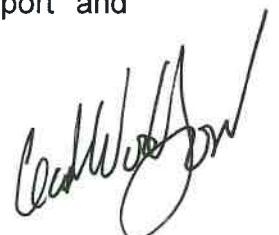
The Members noted the OCA 2015-16 Business Plan progress report. The Dir confirmed that Mr Mark Brown has been appointed to the Asset and Works Officer position.

## **10. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT**

The Chair advised that it was pleasing to note that the recent judgement in the District Court decided in favour of the OCA with regard to the legality of exercising appropriate debt recovery for the Andamooka Community Contribution Scheme.

The Chair advised that the grant opportunities recently released by the Minister for Local Government will provide very good opportunities for progress in the OCA's region.

The Chair confirmed that she had attended a very positive meeting with Mr Michael Deegan, Chief Executive, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure where the condition of outback roads was discussed.



## 11. MEMBER'S REPORT

Member Ferguson advised that she had attended a workshop held in Leigh Creek on 16 November which was organised for local tourism operators to meet and explore opportunities for the future of the Northern Flinders region.

Member Ferguson advised that the workshop was well attended and discussion included how to strategically market the region, what benefits would result from the existing infrastructure at Leigh Creek and what prospects there could be for future business opportunities.

Member Ferguson advised that there were some very creative ideas generally discussed and that there was an overall optimistic view for the future.

Member Fort advised that she had also attended the workshop and she reiterated Member Ferguson's comments that attendees had bought optimism to the meeting and were genuinely keen to see the region explore opportunities that will see a sustainable future.

Member Fort felt that future workshops will need to be more inclined to provide reassurance and specific outcomes.

## 12. SECTION 11 COMMITTEES REPORTS

### 12.1 Andamooka Town Management Committee (ATMC)

Minutes from the Andamooka Town Management Committee held on 31 August 2015 were tabled.

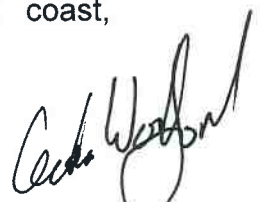
The Gov M confirmed that the ATMC office contractor has had his contract renewed for a further 12 months and that preliminary planning is about to commence on the Andamooka 2016-2017 Business Plan and Budget.

The OCA noted the ATMC meeting minutes.

## 13. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Dir tabled his report and advised the Members that since the October OCA meeting he has been predominantly working on the future of Leigh Creek and the Northern Flinders region, the Strategic and Business Plan actions and the Oodnadatta Development Project.

The Dir provided an overview of the business activities that staff have been involved in which included but are not limited to the District Court decision regarding the validity of the Andamooka Community Contribution Scheme and associated debt collection process, the facilitation of the second Northern Flinders Community Workshop, community visits to the far west coast,





Andamooka, Pimba and Oodnadatta and more recently the Northern Flinders Tourism Stakeholders meeting. The Dir referred to the reports provided by Members Ferguson and Fort and reiterated that the workshop was well attended where innovative ideas for the region were explored and discussed.

The Dir confirmed that the Minister for Local Government had recently released grant programs providing opportunities for outback communities and businesses to access funding. The Dir confirmed that he has commenced planning applications to be submitted but noted that matching funding is required.

The Dir advised that planning has commenced for the next workshop to be held in Leigh Creek to explore opportunities for the Northern Flinders region and that the workshop will provide a good opportunity for OCA to do what the OCA does well and that is to work with communities to achieve their aspirations.

The Dir advised that the next Community Cabinet has been scheduled for 28 and 29 February 2016 although the venue has not been confirmed.

The Chair advised that it is pleasing to note recipients at the 2015 KESAB Awards included businesses and individuals from the outback region. The Chair congratulated Mr Lionel Gurney, Treasurer from the Fowlers Bay Progress Association who was the recipient of the Community Individual Award, Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula region, Skytrek Willow Springs Station for the Tourism Award, the Stirling North Country Fire Service for the Community Group and Ms Michelle Reynolds from the Emerging Leader Group, Far North region.

The Chair commended Mr Gurney for the many tireless hours that he has freely given as a volunteer in supporting and progressing the Fowlers Bay community. The Chair made special mention of the restoration of the community hall project which Mr Gurney managed in stages over the course of 4 years. The Chair advised that it was pleasing to see that the Community Development Officer (CDO) was present when Mr Gurney received the award, particularly as the CDO provides extensive support and has a good working relationship with outback communities.

The Chair congratulated all winners and finalists in the 2015 KESAB Awards.

#### **14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next OCA meeting has been scheduled for 20, 21 January 2016 to be held in Adelaide.

The meeting closed at 1.25pm.

