

Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

2 August 2018

Meeting No. 78

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

2 August 2018 at 1.25pm

Present:

C Woolford (Chair), J Booth, J Fort, C Michelmore, M Marsland and T Roach (OCA Members)
A Hart, Manager, Office of Local Government M Sutton (Director, OCA),
B Gough and B Honan (OCA staff).

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to meeting 78 of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA).

The Chair confirmed that an apology has been received from Member Fennell.

2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Refer to item 4.2.6.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2018 were circulated.

**Moved by Member Roach
Seconded by Member Michelmore**

That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 14 June 2018, meeting number 77 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 there has been no progress on this matter, the matter is ongoing.

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 Outback Communities Authority Code of Business Procedural Guidelines (Ref. agenda item 13, Meeting No. 74)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who advised that this matter is ongoing.

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

The Chair referred to the Director who advised that he and the Business Services Manager will work with the Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) Corporate Finance to have the budget forward estimates reflect the actual costs related to Board expenses. The Director confirmed that the changes cannot be addressed until the mid year budget review, therefore this matter is ongoing

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

The Chair referred to the Director who confirmed that a portion of the Director's salary in 2017-18 was able to be recognised in the Leigh Creek transition budget, acknowledging the time spent specifically on the transition.

The Director advised that the Manager, Leigh Creek Contracts and Services has resigned, effective 9 July; the position has not been filled and it is fair to say that this has had some impact on the Office for the OCA. The Director confirmed that it is important to review the support to Leigh Creek prior to looking at refilling the position, in the meantime the Office for the OCA will continue to manage services.

As a result of the in-house management, the Members strongly encouraged the Director to have actual costs of providing services to the Leigh Creek community reflected in the transition budget line and requested a further update be included in the September meeting agenda providing an overview of Leigh Creek.

Member Roach confirmed her resignation from the Leigh Creek Progress Association and advised that the new visitor information outlet is doing very well providing a good opportunity for the region to provide local information to tourists visiting the region.

4.2.6 Presiding Member's Report (Ref. agenda item 10, Meeting No.78)

The Chair referred to the OCA meeting 77 held on 14 June where she confirmed her invitation to participate on the Ediacaran World Heritage Consultant Reference group. The Chair advised that the Manager, Partnership and Community Engagement, Department of Environment and Water confirmed that the Chair's position on the group is representing the OCA and unfortunately the letter of invite should have in fact been sent to the Chair through the Office of the OCA which would have initiated the formal process.

At this stage, the Chair declared a conflict of interest, leaving the meeting.

In the absence of the Chair, Member Marsland moved that Member Michelmore take over the role of Chair. The remaining Members agreed.



On behalf of the Chair (Michelmore) the Director confirmed that the Members should be satisfied that the OCA will benefit from representation on the Ediacaran World Heritage Consultant Reference group and that if the Members approve the appointment of Ms Woolford, travel reimbursement claims can be submitted. The Director confirmed that Ms Woolford has attended a meeting of the Reference Group and submitted a travel reimbursement claim.

The Chair (Michelmore) explained that the appointment to the Reference Group is a representation of community interest and therefore, no possible conflict of duties will occur with this role.

Moved by Member Marsland

Seconded by Member Fort

That the Outback Communities Authority:

- *Nominate Ms Woolford to take up position on the Ediacaran World Heritage Consultant Reference group, representing the OCA.*
- *Accept the representation is beneficial to the OCA with no inherit conflict.*
- *Approve expense claim, retrospectively.*
- *Enquire whether associated travel expenses when participating on the Ediacaran World Heritage Consultant Reference group can be met by the Department of Environment and Water, and if not, the OCA to reimburse Ms Woolford for incurred travel expenditure.*

Carried.

Member Marsland moved that Ms Woolford resume as Chair for the remainder of the meeting. All Members agreed.

Ms Woolford returned to the meeting.

5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

6. OCA BUSINESS

6.1 Copley Water (Ref. N18-01/08)

The Chair referred to the Governance Manager who confirmed that negotiations have been ongoing with the Copley community and SA Water regarding transitioning the management of the water supply to SA Water.

As of 1 July 2018 the Copley owned water reticulation system has been acquired by SA Water and as a consequence the OCA has no further responsibility for the supply of water or associated reticulation assets at Copley.

The Governance Manager advised that ESCOSA has been informed of the change of responsibility and therefore the OCA will surrender its water retail licence.



The Governance Manager confirmed that SA Water will provide payment for the water infrastructure currently owned by the Copley Progress Association; the OCA will not be holding any funds in trust.

The OCA noted the transition of its responsibilities around the provision and management of the Copley water supply to SA Water and the associated surrender of the Water Industry License to the Essential Services Commission of South Australia.

6.2 Use of Delegations 2017-18 (Ref. N18-02/08)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who tabled a register of contracts/agreements that have been executed on behalf of the OCA by the Director and Governance Manager in 2017-18. The Director confirmed that the Office for the OCA provide this information annually for review.

The OCA noted the use of financial delegations for 2017-18 by OCA staff as set out in the record of actions as tabled.

6.3 OCA Conduct of Business – Member Induction - Update (Ref. N18-03/08)

The Chair referred discussion to the Governance Manager who tabled the DPTI Gifts and Benefits Policy and also Department of the Premier and Cabinet Honesty and Accountability for Members of Government Boards policy. The Governance Manager advised that the DPTI Gifts and Benefits Policy has recently been updated and therefore the OCA Conduct of Business – Member Induction paper has also been updated.

The OCA noted the reference to the Gifts and Benefits Policy (and associated decision making flow chart) in the OCA Conduct of Business – Member Induction paper; and familiarised itself with the policy.

6.4 Regional Development Australia Far North Local Government Funding - Update (Ref. N18-04/048)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who tabled the quarterly report received from the Regional Development Australia Far North (RDA FN) for the period 1 April to 30 June 2018, noting the achievements to date.

The Outback Communities Authority noted the quarterly Local Government Core Funding Agreement report provided by Regional Development Australia for the period 1 April 2018 to 30 June 2018.

6.5 2017-18 Budget Monitoring Report as at 30 June 2018 (Ref. N18-05/08)

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who tabled the Budget Monitoring Report as at 30 June 2018. The Director explained the income variances across the budget which relate to funding received from DPTI to assist with the operation of the Leigh Creek aerodrome and the donation of vehicles located at Leigh Creek; maintenance of roads in Andamooka and the net gain from the disposal of OCA owned vehicles.

The Director also summarised the expenditure variances which include the under provision of budget for Board expenses, an overall underspend in supplies and services predominantly due to the Leigh Creek transition budget allocation. Further variances within supplies and services were due to higher costs associated with the public conveniences located in the outback, a slight overspend with maintenance for UHF towers and some underspends within the community waste water management system and corporate budgets.

The Director explained that as at 30 June, seven communities remained partially non-compliant with meeting milestones through the 2017-18 Community Affairs Resourcing and Management agreements which resulted in approximately \$40,000 funding not being accessed.

The Outback Communities Authority noted the March 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 advising that the development of an Outback Tourism Destination Management and marketing Plan is a high priority for 2018-19, confirming that Member Fort has agreed to participate in the development of the Plan.

The Director confirmed that initial discussions have commenced with communities in the northern flinders 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 due to resources being totally committed.

The Members noted the Business Plan Action Plan.

9. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

The Chair advised that she met with Minister Canavan along with the Director at the Minister's request where discussion included the telecommunications grant and Barndioota and the role that the OCA has to play. Discussion also included the setting up of a future fund for the successful site for the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility site. The Chair confirmed that the future fund will include economic diversification training



capacity, will provide funds for Aboriginal groups and that a fact sheet available on the website. The Chair advised that the meeting also provided a good opportunity for the Director to meet with the Minister's Chief of Staff.

The Chair advised that the ballot process for the proposed Nuclear Radioactive Waste Management Facility at Wallerberdina had closed on Tuesday ((31 July). The Chair confirmed that late in the process there were a few unanticipated problems regarding access to the state electoral role information which the Director was able to manage effectively.

The Chair advised that on 13 July the Office for the OCA issued a media release regarding the operation of the outback water stations.

The Chair confirmed that she had attended the Ediacaran World Heritage Consultant Reference group meeting held at the Parachilna Hotel which included a visit to the fossil fields. The meeting included a very informative lecture by Professor Mary Droser.

10. MEMBERS REPORT

Member Fort advised that she had recently visited Birdsville and Innamincka. Member Fort confirmed that she had Chaired the Flinders Ranges and Outback South Australian Tourism (FROSAT) meeting held on 1 August where the Business Plan and Marketing Plan were discussed. Member Fort explained FROSAT are working toward partnering with South Australian Tourism Industry Council (SATIC) to deliver the Flinders Ranges and Outback Tourism Forum, being held in Port Augusta on 12, 13 November 2018. The forum underpins the Regional Visitors Strategy targeting communities engaging in community development, visitor experiences, leadership, economy growth, trade shows, etc. The budget for the forum is being managed by SATIC and it is expected that 70-100 people will attend.

11. DIRECTORS REPORT

The Chair referred discussion to the Director who tabled his report and advised that the period since the OCA's June meeting has focussed around the end of financial year reporting and the commencement of the OCA's 2017-18 audit by the Auditor General's Department.

The Director confirmed that correspondence has been forwarded to Minister Knoll, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government and the Minister for Planning introducing the OCA.

The Director reported that his time has continued to be consumed with the preparation of the materials and process regarding the proposed Nuclear Radioactive Waste Management Facility.

The Director advised that recent impacts on resources have come from the annual audit being undertaken by the Auditor General and also the new changes with dog registrations.

The Director summarised meetings that he attended representing the OCA including a meeting with Minister Pisoni, Minister for Higher Education and Skills where discussion included challenges faced trying to fill traineeships in the outback region.

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

13. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

- 14.1 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-06).

Moved by Member Marsland
Seconded by Member Michelmores

That the OCA move into camera due to the confidential nature of discussions regarding CO-06.

Carried.

Moved by Member Marsland
Seconded by Member Roach

That the meeting resume out of camera.

Carried.

The meeting resumed out of 'in camera' session.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Members noted that the next scheduled meeting is 18, 19, 20 September to be held in Innamincka.

The meeting closed at 3.30 pm.