

Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

12 December 2019

Meeting No. 89

Members:

W McIntosh (Presiding Member)

J Fort, F Frahn, M Marsland, C Michelmore, T Roach, L Warrington

Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held at the Outback Communities Authority Office, 12 Tassie Street, Port Augusta

12 December 2019 at 10.30 am

Present:

W McIntosh (Presiding Member), J Fort, F Frahn,
M Marsland, and L Warmington (OCA Members)
M Sutton (Director, OOCA), B Gough and B Honan (OOCA).

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Presiding Member welcomed everyone to meeting 89 of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA), noting apologies received from Members Roach and Michelmore.

2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest, although the Chair confirmed that he is aware of the carbon funding project being explored at Blinman, that he is an invited observer on the Barndioota Consultative Committee and is a previous contractor working on the wild dog aerial baiting project.

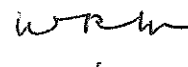
4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2019 were circulated.

Moved by Member Fort
Seconded by Member Marsland

That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 11 October 2019, meeting number 88 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 OCA Budget (Ref. agenda item 4.3.2, Meeting No. 75)

The Presiding Member referred to the Director who confirmed that the OCA's budget amendment to reflect the OCA's business needs, remains ongoing and it is likely that this will not be finalised until the completion of the Outback Futures consultation. The Director confirmed that the operations of the Office for the Outback Communities Authority continue on as business as usual.

4.2.2 Risk Management – Strategic Management Planning (Ref. agenda item 6.6, Meeting No.87)

The Presiding Member referred to the Director who confirmed that this matter will be discussed in the future when the OCA commence the new iteration of the Strategic Management Plan; this matter is ongoing.

4.2.3 Lake Eyre – Analysis of the Impacts and Opportunities an Event has on the Region - Update (Ref. agenda item 6.1, Meeting No.88)

The Presiding Member referred to the Director who confirmed that this matter will be finalised with Regional Development Australia Far North (RDA FN) before Christmas; the matter is ongoing.

4.2.4 2018-19 Auditor General Report (Ref. agenda item 6.2, Meeting No.88)

The Presiding Member referred to the Director who confirmed that a response to the Auditor General's findings from the 2018-19 audit has been provided, therefore this item to be removed from the Action List.

4.2.5 Delegation of Functions and Power (Ref. agenda item 6.3, Meeting No.88)

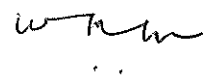
The Presiding Member referred to the Director who confirmed that delegations of functions and power to enable the sale of land for non-payment of rates has been completed, therefore this matter can be removed from the Action List.

4.2.6 Outback Futures Review (Ref. agenda item 7.1, Meeting No.88)

The Presiding Member referred to the Director who confirmed that the Minister has been informed about the Outback Futures committee, therefore this matter to be removed from the Action List.

4.2.7 National Radioactive Waste Management Facility (Ref. agenda item 7.2, Meeting No.88)

The Presiding Member referred to the Director who confirmed that a response to the Community Benefit Programme, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science was completed on 4 December, therefore this item to be removed from the Action List.



4.2.8 Member's Report (Ref. agenda item 10, Meeting No.88)

Outback Tax Concession: The Presiding Member referred to the Director who confirmed that unfortunately the opportunity for the OCA to provide a response was not available; this item to be removed from the Action List.

Planning Reform: A discussion via video link was held on 11 December with Mr Jason Cattonar, Unit Manager Development Assessment, State Assessment, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) regarding the Planning Reform which was very informative; therefore this matter to be removed from the Action List.

Drought Recovery: The Chair referred discussion to the Director who confirmed that correspondence addressed to Minister Whetstone regarding drought conditions in the outback has been delayed but will be actioned in the very near future.

The Board acknowledged the discussion via video link that was held on 11 December with Mr Brett Bartel, Assistant Director, Agribusiness Initiative, Rural Solutions SA regarding drought assistance, which was also very informative; this matter to be removed from the Action List.

5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

6. OCA BUSINESS

6.1 South Australian Disaster Resilience Grant Program 2019 – Far North Zone Emergency Management Committee (Ref. N19-01/12)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who advised that the Outback Communities Authority (OOCA) had received a grant under the South Australian Disaster Resilience Grant Program 2019 for the Far North Zone Emergency Management Committee intended to support the Far North Volunteer Support Coordinator project. The Director confirmed that unfortunately the grant has been returned to the grant providers, the SA Fire and Emergency Commission as the Office for the OCA (OOCA) does not have the resource capacity to undertake this project.

The OCA note that the OOCA were unable to undertake the activities for which a grant under the South Australian Disaster Resilience Grant Program 2019 for the Far North Zone Emergency Management Committee and have returned the grant funds to the SA Fire and Emergency Commission (SAFECOM) who were the grant providers.

6.2 Cat Management Plan for South Australia (Ref. N19-02/12)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled the Cat Management Plan for South Australia received as a joint initiative from RSPCA South Australia and the Animal Welfare League, seeking the OCA's support.

The Board commend the RSPCA and Animal Welfare League for the extensive work undertaken in developing the Cat Management Plan and also the reasoning that underpins the Plan; to curb cat over population, but realise that the OCA is not in a position to provide resources to support the Plan as it is not practical in the unincorporated areas.

Moved by Member Frahn
Seconded by Member Warmington

That the OCA resolves to:

- *Note the Cat Management Plan for South Australia.*
- *Does not endorse the Cat Management Plan for South Australia for application as it is not practical in the unincorporated areas of South Australia*

Carried.

6.3 Isolated Children's Parents' Association (ICPA) – State Conference 2020 (Ref. N19–03/12)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled a letter from the SA ICPA State Conference Convening Committee requesting support for the 2020 State Conference.

The Director confirmed that the State Conference will be held on 13 March 2020 in Port Augusta and offers a very good opportunity to those rural and remote families to come together and discuss the challenges faced with providing education and family support on a daily basis.

Moved by Member Marsland
Seconded by Member Warmington

That the OCA resolves to:

- *Provide sponsorship to the value of \$2,000.00 to the North East Branch of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association for the hosting of the 2020 SA State Conference to be held in Port Augusta on 13 March 2020.*
- *Accepts the opportunity for promotion of the OCA at the 2020 State Conference.*

Carried.

6.4 Regional Development Australia Far North Quarterly Report to September 2019 (Ref. N19–04/12)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled the Quarterly Report to September 2019 received from the Regional Development Australia Far North (RDA FN). The Members noted the significant achievements referred to in the report including briefings provided to Regions SA, Infrastructure SA and Infrastructure Australia on the Far North Telecommunications project and assisting with the preparation and support for business and project plans for businesses located in Copley, Andamooka, Leigh Creek, Lyndhurst, Northern Flinders and Beltana.

The Director referred to the assistance provided by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, RDA FN who coordinated and assisted with the OOCA's successful submission for funding to the Drought Communities Programme.

The Board agreed that they look forward to a presentation by the RDA FN Chair at a future meeting.

The OCA noted the Regional Development Australia Far North quarterly report to 30 September 2019.

6.5 South Australian Regional Visitor Strategy – Second Progress Report (Ref. N19-05/12)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled the South Australian Regional Visitor Strategy – Second Progress Report and advised that the common aim of the Strategy is to align more effectively all available resources with recommendations based on visitor research, consumer insights and the collective experience of regional tourism organisations.

The Director referred to specific information pertaining to the Flinders Ranges and Outback which includes achievements, highlighting the growth of tourism in the region.

The Director referred to Member Fort who advised that the report relates to the economic benefits of tourism, roads and infrastructure and confirmed that our region is tracking nicely. The Presiding Member and Member Fort recommended that the report be referenced whenever possible.

The Members noted the report did not include the West Coast; the Director undertook to raise the oversight.

The Members noted the South Australian Regional Visitor Strategy – Progress Report, November 2019.

6.6 Finance Report – November 2019 (Ref. N19-05/11)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled the Finance Report as at 30 November 2019. The Director referred to additional operating and investing expenditure being the \$1 million grant funding through the Drought Communities Programme and \$33,000 grant returned to SAFECOM (as discussed earlier in the meeting).

The Director confirmed that Treasury and Finance have approved adjustments in the budget including \$734,000 specific to the repair and reseal of the Oodnadatta Airstrip (\$367,000 Commonwealth Government and \$367,000 SA Government); \$170,000 specific to a perimeter fence for the Marla Airstrip (\$85,000 Commonwealth Government and \$85,000 State Government).

The Business Support Manager referred to the community assistance budget line advising that close management is required to ensure communities access the funding allocated through their annual Community Affairs Resourcing and Management agreements.

The Board noted the outstanding debt specific to the Community Contribution Schemes in Andamooka and Iron Knob. The Governance Manager noted the efficient and successful work of the Fines Enforcement and Recovery Unit on the OCA's behalf.

The OCA noted the November 2019 Finance Report and that a review of the 2019-20 budget will be provided at a workshop to be held during February.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

7.1 Outback Water Stations

The Members discussed at length the far reaching drought conditions and how the water stations owned by the OCA might be able to assist those communities experiencing drought conditions that host an OCA water station. The Members discussed extensively what operating amendments could be implemented with the water stations but noted that the stations are relatively new technology and it is preferred to not alter the actual operations of the water stations as this may result in an interrupted supply of water. The Members considered reducing the cost of water dispensed from the water stations agreeing that this was a fair and equitable outcome and for hardship cases to be referred to the appropriate help agencies.

Member Marsland departed from the meeting.

With consideration of current and ongoing drought conditions affecting domestic water supplies the OCA resolved the following.

Member Marsland returned to the meeting.

Moved by Member Frahn
Seconded by Member Fort

That the OCA resolved:

- *To implement as soon as practical, to reduce the cost of drinking water dispensed from the water stations and for this to remain in place until 1 April 2020.*
- *Any subsequent further requests for emergency assistance for drinking water be provided with a list of supporting options.*

Carried.

7.2 The Director advised that Mr Lynn Brake, Senior Researcher with the University of South Australia and long standing member of the management and research of the Outback's extensive water resources and related ecology, is unfortunately very unwell. The Director commended Lynn's many years of service and commitment to water management and conservation across the far north Great Artesian Basin region.

The Board were saddened to hear of Mr Brake's illness and resolved to acknowledge his contribution toward the management and conservation of water across the far north rangelands region.

8. BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled the 2019-20 Business Plan Action Plan. The Director summarised the progress made on the Business Plan confirming that one of the goals, the new oneOutback newspaper's first edition was produced on 6 November 2019 and has since received favorable feedback. Member Frahn suggested the inclusion of an outback identity article for future editions, which will be considered.

The Board acknowledge the work involved in producing the oneOutback newspaper and congratulated the OCA staff on the professional quality of the newspaper.

The Director confirmed that the report of the economic benefits and opportunities around an event at Lake Eyre has commenced.

The Members noted the Business Plan Action Plan.

9. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

The Presiding Member tabled his report which summarised meetings he attended including the Barndioota Consultative Committee on 16 October and then again on 11 November, meeting with Minister Stephan Knoll MP on 5 November and Mr Mark Bolton, Telstra Regional Manager on 20 November.

The Presiding Member advised that along with the Director and the Asset and Works Officer, he inspected the recently installed water station facility located at Beltana. Further to the inspection, the Presiding Member confirmed that he had participated in a telephone conversation with the Federal Member for Grey, Rowan Ramsey MP to discuss the installation and proposed policy surrounding the use of the outback water stations, owned by the OCA.

The Presiding Member further advised that on 20 November he attended the Rural Business Support breakfast held in Adelaide, convened to provide an update on their services and activities in the Upper North and Pastoral region, which the Director also attended.

The OCA noted the Presiding Member's report.

10. MEMBERS REPORT

Member Fort reported that she had attended the Regional Chair's meeting and a further \$700,000 cuts in funding are expected. This may impact collaborative marketing funding to the regions. Member Fort also attended the Flinders Ranges Tourism Operators Association (FRTOA) forum held at Pichi Richi where Tourism Industry Council SA (TICSA) attended to inform operators of the new Quality Tourism Framework.

Member Fort advised that a member of the general public has written to the Department of Trade Tourism and Investment regarding a general rubbish problem affecting the Stuart Highway, although it is noted that general rubbish problems are occurring across the region. The Director acknowledged that collaboration across

multiple agencies is needed to come up with a solution that is effective for dealing with general rubbish problems.

Member Fort explained that Flinders Ranges and Outback Tourism (FRO) is interested in driving a digital initiative to educate the general travelling public and that there may be an opportunity for the Tread Lightly concept to be taken on board. The Director and Members welcomed this suggestion and encouraged the Office for the OCA to liaise with FRO regarding this matter.

Member Fort confirmed that FRO have a planning day scheduled for 16 January and that she had attended the TICSA Awards which were well represented.

The OCA acknowledged and congratulated Member Fort on receiving the Outstanding Contribution by an Individual award through the 2019 SA Tourism Awards and recognises the great achievement and outstanding contribution by Member Fort.

11. DIRECTORS REPORT

The Director tabled his report advising that the Outback Futures project and Drought Communities project have been the focus since the October meeting.

The Director announced that the recent recruitment drive for two positions at Leigh Creek has been successful with both candidates accepting the offers for the Community Development Officer and Business Support Officer positions. The Community Development Officer will commence on 6 January while the Business Support Officer position will commence on 13 January 2020.

The Director confirmed that advice has been received confirming approval of round 1 Drought Communities Programme project and also that round 2 has been allocated to the OCA. The Director explained that work is currently underway to ascertain how the additional investment can be allocated, noting that round 2 needs to be acquitted by 30 December 2020.

The Director referred to correspondence recently received from SA Power Networks regarding the 2020-25 Regulatory Proposal to the Australian Energy Regulator (AER), being their plans to manage SA Network's safety, reliability of power supply and customer service over the 2020-25 period. The OCA have been requested to consider providing a supporting submission by 15 January 2020.

The Director also advised that the community ballot process for the proposed National Radioactive Waste Management Facility at Wallerberdina has closed and counting is currently underway.

The Director referred to the extensive activities that the OOCA staff have been involved in noting the erection of the new Innamincka public toilets which have been well received by the community. The new water station will be situated adjacent the public toilet site and the OOCA will work with the community to finalise the details.

The Director referred to the Governance Manager who advised that further to the OCA meeting held on 23 May 2019 where it was resolved to authorise OOCA staff for the purposes of the Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016, training was recently

provided to OOCA staff by the Environmental Protection Authority. The training explained what the Act means for the OOCA and outback communities. The Governance Manager confirmed that he will report back to the Board on a way forward.

The Director flagged an emerging issue relating to outback gymkhana and horse sport event organisers experiencing difficulty in securing insurance for such events at a reasonable cost. The Director advised that the OOCA will investigate the matter and will report back to the Board.

The Director tabled the media report provided by the Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure Media Section.

The OCA noted the Director's report.

12. CORRESPONDENCE REGISTER

The Director tabled the Correspondence Register for the period October to early December 2019.

The OCA noted the Correspondence Register.

13. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

No Confidential Orders were discussed.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The OCA noted that the next scheduled meeting is a teleconference to be held on 16 January 2020 if required, or 19, 20 February to be held in Port Augusta.

The meeting closed at 12.40 pm.

W. M. McIntosh 20-2-20