



# Minutes

## Outback Communities Authority

29 April 2021

Meeting No. 99

Members:

W McIntosh (Presiding Member)

J Fort, F Frahn, S Johnson, A Vaughan, L Warmington, T Wright

# Minutes

## Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held at the Standpipe Golf Motor Inn, Port Augusta

29 April 2021 at 10:18 am

### Present:

W McIntosh (Presiding Member), J Fort, F Frahn,  
A Vaughan, L Warmington and T Wright (OCA Members)  
M Sutton (Director, OCA) and J Greatbatch (Business Support Officer, OCA).

### 1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Presiding Member welcomed everyone to meeting 99 of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA).

An apology from Member Johnson has been received.

### 2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

### 3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

### 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2021 were circulated.

**Moved by Member Vaughan**  
**Seconded by Member Fort**

*That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 21 January 2021, meeting number 98 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 Presiding Member's Report – Response to the Premier of South Australia (Ref. agenda item 9, Meeting No. 93)

The Director confirmed that Livestock SA have requested that a meeting be held between the Chair, Chief Executive Officer and OCA Presiding Member in 2021; although this matter is pending, no correspondence is required until there is further progression with the Outback Futures Project.

4.2.2 Business Plan Progress Report (Ref. agenda item 4.3.6, Meeting No.95)

The Director confirmed that a workshop will be held once the Outback Futures Project outcomes are known to consider the flexible planning relating to the OCA's 5-year Strategic Management Plan, therefore this matter is pending.

4.2.3 Member's Reports – Support for Regional Tourism (Ref. agenda item 10, Meeting No 95)

The Director advised that a workshop will be held in the future to consider support for regional tourism at a community level, after the completion of the Outback Futures Consultation, therefore this matter is pending.

4.2.4 Finance Report (Ref. agenda item 6.2, Meeting No.96)

The Members agreed the current finance report is adequate and therefore this matter is to be removed from the action list.

4.2.5 Outback Futures (Ref. agenda item 12, Meeting No.96)

The Director confirmed the Minister has been provided with information regarding the Outback Futures Project, therefore this matter is to be removed from the action list.

## 5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

## 6. OCA BUSINESS

6.1 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2021-22 (Ref. N21-01/04)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled the draft 2021-22 Business Plan and Budget document recently provided to the Members for consideration.

**Moved by Member Fort**  
**Seconded by Member Warmington**

*That the OCA approves the release of the draft Business Plan and Budget for 2021-22 for consultation.*

Carried.

6.2 Copley and Districts Progress Association (Ref. N21-02/04)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled a request from the Copley and Districts Progress Association (CDPA) for funding support of \$5,000 to complete the Copley Community Hall upgrade project.

The CDPA have managed and implemented this project with support from the OCA and have found the renovation costs to be significant due to the neglected state of the Hall and have requested an additional \$5,000 in funding support to ensure successful completion of the project.

**Moved by Member Vaughan**  
**Seconded by Member Frahn**

*That the OCA approve additional project funding assistance to the Copley and Districts Progress Association Inc. to the value of \$5,000 for the Copley Community Hall upgrade project.*

**Carried.**

6.3 Farina Restoration Group (Ref. N21-03/04)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled a request from the Farina Restoration Group (FRG) for sponsorship of \$500 for the formal opening of 'Patterson's House' on 18, 19 and 20 June 2021.

The Members discussed the good work that the volunteers have undertaken in Farina which has provided a benefit to the visitor economy in the surrounding region.

**Moved by Member Frahn**  
**Seconded by Member Wright**

*That the OCA approves sponsorship of \$500 to the Farina Restoration Group to support the formal opening of 'Patterson's House' on 18, 19 and 20 June 2021.*

**Carried.**

6.4 Flinders Ranges and Outback Tourism – 'Aussie Travel Code' Collateral Development (Ref. N21-04/04)

The Director referred to the 'Aussie Travel Code' project managed by the Flinders Ranges and Outback Tourism Committee (FRO) that has been facilitated through investment from the OCA. As the annual tourism season has begun, FRO would like to purchase collateral for distribution across the region to further promote the message to visitors to the Outback. FRO provided proofs and costings for the recommended purchases.

**Moved by Member Wright**  
**Seconded by Member Vaughan**

*That the OCA approve a grant to the Flinders Ranges and Outback Tourism Committee (FRO) Incorporated of \$4,850 to purchase 'Aussie Travel Code' collateral for distribution across the region.*

It is noted that Member Fort as Chair of FRO abstained from voting.

Carried.

6.5 Dog Registration Fees 2021-22 (Ref. N21-05/04)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled recommended dog registration fees for 2021-22, with no increase in fees from the 2020-21 year.

The Director also recommended that the OCA waive dog registration fees for the month of June 2021, as was implemented in 2019 and 2020.

**Moved by Member Vaughan**  
**Seconded by Member Warmington**

*That the OCA:*

- 1. Approves the dog registration fees as tabled for 2021-22, noting no increase and advising the Dog and Cat Management Board by 30 May 2021.*
- 2. Approves the waiving of dog registration fees for the month of June 2021.*

Carried.

6.6 Regional Development Australia Far North Quarterly Report to December 2020 (Ref. N21-06/04)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled the Regional Development Australia Far North (RDA FN) Quarterly Report to December 2020. The Director referred to significant achievements mentioned in the document including a report on the Economic Analysis of Lake Eyre Kati-Thanda, way-finding signage organised courtesy of SATC/DIT and assistance with the launch of the 'Aussie Travel Code' campaign.

The OCA noted the RDA FN Quarterly Report to 31 December 2020.

6.7 Budget Monitoring Report 31 March 2021 (Ref. N21-07/04)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who referred to the Finance Report to 31 March 2021 provided by AGD. The Members requested a change to future reports not referring to an Asset Sustainability Levy as being a certainty as this is yet to be determined through the Outback Futures Project process.

The Board noted the Finance Report as at 31 March 2021.

## 7. URGENT BUSINESS

7.1 Proposed Community Affairs Resourcing and Management Agreements Incorporating a Community Contribution for Andamooka and Iron Knob for 2021-22

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who confirmed that both the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association (APOMA) and the Iron Knob Progress Association (IKPA) have verbally expressed their in-principle approval to entering into Community Affairs and Resourcing Management (CARM) agreements for 2021-22, similar to what is currently in place. These both incorporate a community contribution and expire 30 June 2021.

Consultation on CARM agreements and community contributions is required before the OCA can make an informed decision on entering into agreements for 2021-22. Consultation will include a draft budget for each community.

The Director confirmed that if community feedback suggests general acceptance of the CARM agreements, a similar methodology to the current agreements would be adopted, being:

- A community contribution to apply from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.
- Property units remain the basis for determining the contributions attributable to a particular property.
- The dollar value of community contributions would be set having considered the consultation feedback, however it is expected to be the same as for the 2020-21 year's contribution ie \$400 pa in Andamooka and \$240 pa in Iron Knob.
- The OCA's Concessions Policy on rebates, remissions, hardship and postponements would apply.

The Director confirmed that Ministerial approval for the dollar value of each community contribution is required. Once consultation has been completed, a recommended action report will be put to the OCA.

The Director tabled the Community Engagement Strategy checklist and Consultation Timeline for the Members.

**Moved by Member Frahn  
Seconded by Member Vaughan**

*That the OCA notes:*

- 1. The in-principal approval from the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association Inc. to consider a new Community Affairs Resourcing and Management agreement incorporating a community contribution for 2021-22 and approve the consultation plan as tabled.*
- 2. The in-principal approval from the Iron Knob Progress Association Inc. to consider a new Community Affairs Resourcing and Management agreement incorporating a community contribution for 2021-22 and approve the consultation plan as tabled.*

**Carried.**

The OCA in approving this motion notes the deputation by APOMA at the June 2020 meeting that discussed the burden of annual consultation on the Association's volunteers. The OCA seeks to address this in the outcomes of the Outback Futures Project.

## 8. BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled the 2020-21 Business Plan Action Plan.

The Board discussed concerns around the impact of increased regional visitation during the 2021 tourism season on infrastructure and services. The Members asked the Director to draft a letter to the Minister for Tourism (the Premier) regarding the impact of increased regional tourism on Outback infrastructure in the OCA's region.

**Moved by Member Fort**  
**Seconded by Member Frahn**

*That OCA resolves to write a letter to the Minister for Tourism (the Premier) from the OCA regarding the impact increased visitation to the region is having on Outback Infrastructure.*

**Carried.**

The Members noted the Business Plan Action.

## 9. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

The Presiding Member summarised the activities he has been involved in leading up to the OCA meeting:

- 29 January – attended a State Bushfire Coordination Committee workshop organised to provide consultation for the State Bushfire Management Plan. The Plan has been released for community consultation and will be launched soon.
- 1 February – attended the Flinders Ranges Community Reference Group meeting in Hawker established to engage the surrounding community in the nomination for World Heritage listing of the Ediacaran fossil sites. It is expected that there will soon be an announcement regarding the status of the nomination.
- 10 and 11 February – attended the Tourism Forum and Carbon Farming Forum in Port Augusta.
- 11 March – attended a meeting with the Minister (Deputy Premier) to discuss the Outback Futures Report. This was a short meeting yet helpful in providing background information regarding the findings of the report.
- 26 March – attended an SA Outback Roads Action Group meeting in Port Augusta. This meeting provided a report on the recent change to the use of private contractors for outback road maintenance and discussed the issues around making the program more efficient and responsive to local information. The minutes of this meeting have been provided to the Members.
- 24 April – responded to an interview request from ABC Radio with Narelle Graham in relation to the system of advising the travelling public about road closures. The Presiding Member agreed a more efficient system is needed and also referred to the need to better manage public access generally in the Outback.
- Received an invitation to participate on the Landscapes SA forum panel at the Pastoral Field Day in Mannahill on 29 May 2021.

The Presiding Member has received advice regarding the Outback Futures Project. The feedback was discussed by the Members and an update meeting with the Minister will be requested regarding further progression of the project.

Moved by Member Warrington  
Seconded by Member Fort

The OCA resolves to:

1. Write a letter to the Minister outlining its plan or vision for the progression of the Outback Futures Project.
2. Seek a follow up meeting with the Minister.

Carried.

The OCA noted the Presiding Member's report.

## 10. MEMBERS REPORT

Member Warrington reported numerous complaints received on the poor condition of roads in the Penong and Fowlers Bay region which are of concern due to an increase in tourists to the area.

Member Wright reported the poor condition of roads and signage in the William Creek region. This is also concerning due to an increase of visitors to the region, many of whom are not prepared for these conditions.

Member Vaughan reported he has been involved in planning of the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccine and any questions relating to the vaccine in the Outback can be referred to the RFDS.

Member Frahn acknowledged the great opportunity she had in participating in the Rising Stars program, participating in the Tourism Forum and attending the Carbon Farming Forum in Port Augusta. She also reported seeing a large increase in interstate tourism which is having an impact on the region.

Member Fort summarized the projects that she has been involved in including the following:

- Rising Stars Building Better Regions – this project is complete and the final milestone report has been delivered. In brief summary the group identified projects related to tourism and in Stage 1 developed Innovation Capability Reviews for the following:
  - Need for a marketing committee to allow the Andamooka Opal Fields/region to be recognised in its own right and to generate new economic opportunities.
  - Need for a Heritage and History trail for new community connections and to drive visitation.
  - Development of an audit to foster ways to generate greater community connection with the Roxby Downs Council and encourage increased stay, spend and economic activity.
  - Design of an end-to-end customer experience to improve a tourism business model and public profile.

In Stage 2 the group developed Activation Plans with the following outcomes:

- Outcome: Leila Day researched an appropriate governance model to set up Andamooka Marketing. This will be an incorporated body with a Constitution, voluntary Board Members and a Destination Marketing Plan. Leila Day was invited to join the Flinders Ranges and Outback Tourism Board in January 2021; she attended her first meeting in January 2021.



- Outcome: In recognising the benefits of a Heritage Trail to incorporate cluster tourism, Frances Frahn saw the need for a Heritage Asset Register. She also revised her business plan to focus on key niche market experiences.
- Outcome: Danni Paraha identified the need to attract and retain young people in the outback. She explored reasons for communication gaps with local government and suggested strategies to find solutions.
- Outcome: Michelle Reynolds refreshed her business model to design and end-to-end customer experience and digital guidebook. This is presented in the form of a Case Study which she has been invited to present to Touch Stay International in the UK.
- **Collaborative Marketing Flinders Ranges and Outback Tourism (FRO) and South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC)** – in total \$50K funding is secured for the following projects:
  - Visitor Guide 2021-22 – the sales campaign, design and production of the Guide commenced in February 2021. The Guide has been rewritten and refreshed to include the self-drive itineraries from the Southern Flinders precinct to the Outback. 65,000 copies will be printed and there is an increase in pages to 72 due to advertising demand.
  - Development of a DESTINATION WEBSITE for the Flinders Ranges and Outback (FRO) region. The purpose of this project is to further develop FRO branding and content footprint from the Southern Flinders Precinct to Flinders Central, northern Flinders and across the Outback from Innamincka to the opal fields of Coober Pedy and Andamooka. This site will also capture targeted audiences for future digital marketing campaigns and for existing marketing campaigns such as the Aussie Travel Code (ATC).
- **Aussie Travel Code** – Marketing/print merchandise is available for Outback businesses wishing to actively participate in the campaign.

## 11. DIRECTORS REPORT

The Director tabled his report referring to it having been a challenging time in the office with two senior members of staff being on extended leave with their positions not yet backfilled and managing an office move whilst transitioning from DIT to AGD.

With reducing Covid-19 restriction, field based personnel have been able to visit communities more this year, with visits to Innamincka, Marree, Oodnadatta, Marla, Kingoonya, Glendambo, Penong, Fowlers Bay, Iron Knob, Lyndhurst, Copley, Leigh Creek, Beltana, Parachilna, Blinman and Yunta.

Significant project management work continues with stimulus funding for OCA projects including six new public conveniences and major upgrade works to the Oodnadatta Community Waste Water Management System.

The Director provided a list of meetings that he has attended including weekly Leigh Creek Task Force Implementation Committee meetings, monthly Leigh Creek Task Force meetings, meeting with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) regarding the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) program Round 2, attending the Carbon Farming Forum, attending a Regional Development Strategy meeting with the CE of PIRSA

and a meeting with the Member for Stuart followed by a meeting with the Minister for Planning and Local Government along with the Presiding Member.

The Director tabled a list of activities undertaken by the Office for the OCA since the January meeting.

The Director acknowledged the efforts of staff during the trying stage of the office move.

The Members also acknowledged the appreciated efforts of staff during this time and their ability to keep the office operating in difficult circumstances.

## 12. SECTION 11 COMMITTEE REPORT – OUTBACK FUTURES

The Outback Futures Project Manager provided an update on the progression of the project. The Outback Futures Report endorsed by the Members in the January meeting was provided to the Minister who requested further contextual and comparative information. This was provided in a Ministerial briefing in late February.

During the meeting between the Minister and the Presiding Member in March, the Minister acknowledged that the OCA must undertake further work to progress its key recommendations, particularly the development of a detailed strategic plan to support the potential introduction of an Outback levy, and the preparation of a business case to underpin further consideration of an Outback Pass. The employment of two additional Community Development Officers by the OCA for 18 months was also discussed as the Outback Futures Project is finalised.

Subsequent to this meeting a further briefing was prepared for the Minister about how this work could be funded, advocating for the funds to continue and resolve the Outback Futures Project over the next 18 months, including the strategic planning process and salary for the Project Manager, development of a business case for the Outback Pass concept, and employment of the two additional Community Development Officers.

**Moved by Member Wright**  
**Seconded by Member Fort**

*That the OCA notes the Section 11 Committee – Outback Futures update and subject to Ministerial approval for progression of the project:*

- 1. Endorses the proposed approach to strategic planning and gives its approval to proceed with arrangements noting formal direction from the Minister is pending.*
- 2. Endorses the discussion paper about the Outback Pass business case and gives it approval to proceed with this work noting formal direction from the Minister is pending.*
- 3. Endorses the communication plan.*

**Carried.**

The OCA noted that the functions of the Section 11 Outback Futures Committee had been completed, therefore future reporting on the Outback Futures Project should be included with OCA Business.

## 13. CORRESPONDENCE REGISTER

The Director tabled the Correspondence Register for the period 19 January to 22 April 2021.

The OCA noted the Correspondence Register.

14. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

Nil.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The OCA noted that the next scheduled meeting will be a teleconference held on 27 May 2021, followed by 23 and 24 June at the OCA office in Port Augusta. Dates and times will be confirmed closer to the date.

The meeting closed at 12.35pm.

*W. M. Hutchings*  
25-6-21