

Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

11 October 2019

Meeting No. 88

Members:

W McIntosh (Presiding Member)

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

Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

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

11 October 2019 at 11.20 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 88 of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA), noting apologies received from Members Michelmore and Roach.

2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The Director referred to agenda item 6.1 and advised that the protocol put in place in 2018 in relation to his role as Chair, Regional Development Australia Far North has been observed.

Member Fort declared an interest in agenda item 6.1, being a business owner in the region and would stand to benefit directly.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 30 August 2019 were circulated.

Moved by Member Fort
Seconded by Member Warmington

That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 30 August 2019, meeting number 87 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.

4.2.2 National Radioactive Waste Management Facility (Ref. agenda item 6.1, Meeting No.87)

The Presiding Member referred to the Director who confirmed that the ballot was mailed out on 26 September and the Office for the OCA (OOCA) will seek reimbursement from the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science for costs incurred. This item to be removed from the Action List.

4.2.3 Lake Eyre – Analysis of Impacts and Opportunities (Ref. agenda item 6.2, Meeting No.87)

The Presiding Member referred to the Director who confirmed that this matter will be discussed later in the agenda, therefore this item to be removed from the Action List.

4.2.4 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.

4.2.5 2019-20 OCA Board Meeting Schedule (Ref. agenda item 6.8, Meeting No.87)

The Presiding Member referred to the Director who confirmed that the 2019-20 meeting schedule has been made available from the OCA's website, therefore this item can be removed from the Action List.

4.2.6 2019-20 OCA Budget Amendment (Ref. agenda item 7.2, Meeting No.87)

The Presiding Member referred to the Director who confirmed that correspondence has been forwarded to Minister Knoll seeking approval for the variation to the OCA's 2019-20 budget and the 'inform consultation' with stakeholders will commence on 14 October, therefore this item to be removed from the Action List.

4.2.7 Pastoral Act Reform (Ref. agenda item 7.3, Meeting No.87)

The Presiding Member referred to the Director who confirmed that a submission regarding the Pastoral Act review has been provided, therefore this item can be removed from the Action List.

4.2.8 OCA 2019-20 Budget (Ref. agenda item 9, Meeting No.87)

The Presiding Member confirmed that correspondence has been forwarded to the Director of Finance acknowledging the recent meeting and confirming the OCA's perspective, therefore this item to be removed from the Action List.

4.2.9 2019-20 OCA Budget – Outback Consultation (Ref. agenda item 9, Meeting No.87)

The Presiding Member referred to discussion held earlier in the day regarding the development of a section 11 committee and subsequent consultation and confirmed that this item can be removed from the Action List.

5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

6. OCA BUSINESS

6.1 Lake Eyre – Analysis of the Impacts and Opportunities an Event has on the Region - Update (Ref. N19-01/10)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who referred to discussion at the August meeting where the OCA resolved to allocate \$10,000 for the preparation of a report that analyses the actual and potential economic benefits tourism activity around Lake Eyre has on the regional economy.

The Director advised that during discussion with the Tourism Industry Council of SA (TICSA) and Regional Development Australia Far North (RDA FN) it was decided that the best course of action was to form a steering committee to develop a project brief. TICSA, RDA FN and Outback Tourism (FRO) and the OCA would form the steering committee and once the project brief was finalised then an appropriate consultant would undertake the work.

Moved by Member Marsland
Seconded by Member Frahn

That the OCA approves a contract for service to be executed between the OCA and the RDA FN for Project Management Services to undertake the analysis of the actual potential economic benefits tourism activity around Lake Eyre has on the regional economy.

It is noted that Member Fort abstained from voting.

Carried.

6.2 2018-19 Auditor General's Report (Ref. N19-02/10)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled the draft 2018-19 audit report from the Auditor General. The Director confirmed that the audit identified three matters for attention, being:

- A review of the Memorandum of Understanding between the OCA and DPTI
- The annual review of the OCA risk register
- Management of DPTI employees with excessive leave balances.

The Director confirmed that the three items were identified as being a low risk and have been flagged to be addressed in the near future.

The OCA:

- Noted the Auditor-General's report;
- Noted that a response to the Auditor-General will be provided outlining the matters raised, once the formal report has been received; and
- Agreed to accept periodic reports on progress toward full compliance with the Auditor-General's recommendations.

6.3 Delegation of Functions and Power to Enable Sale of Land for Non-Payment of Rates (Ref. N19-03/10)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Governance Manager who explained that it would be advantageous to commence the process to sell land for non-payment of rates immediately upon receipt of a judgement order or similar trigger, whereas at present the ability to take timely action is limited to the ability of the OCA to first meet and then resolve to take action. The Governance Manager confirmed that the delegation should be subject to certain conditions.

Moved by Member Fort
Seconded by Member Marsland

That the OCA resolves to:

Delegate its powers and function conferred by section 184 of the Local Government Act 1999 as varied by section 21 of the Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009 to the position of Director, Office for the OCA. The delegation are subject to the following conditions:

- *All avenues to recover the community contributions have been considered;*
- *The land to be sold is not the landholder's sole place of residence; and*
- *All other conditions of section 184 have been complied with.*
- *That the exercise of any such delegation be reported to the OCA at its next meeting.*

Carried.

6.4 Drought Communities Programme - Update (Ref. N19-04/10)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who advised that since the August meeting the Community Development Officer has been working closely with RDA FN finalising the application, assessing each project and its eligibility and

conferring with communities to ensure the project can be achieved within specified timelines.

The Director confirmed that briefs have been developed for one application which includes five categories and it is envisaged that the application will be submitted by the end of October 2019. The application categories are sports recreation and community facilities, town maintenance, community hall upgrade, business and industry support and family and wellbeing support program.

The Director confirmed that he is pleased that the application has managed to include a good spread from the Outback Community.

The OCA noted the progress with the Drought Communities Programme.

6.5 Finance Report – September 2019 (Ref. N19-05/10)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled the finance report as at 30 September 2019, noting the new format. The Director advised that the report is a result of the Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) working closely with the OOCA and is similar to reports in the past, where year to date actuals, end of year forecasts and variances are identified.

The Business Services Manager confirmed that capital works projects have commenced, such as the Outback Water Stations and progressing the new public toilets for the Innamincka community. The Business Services Manager mentioned that close management is required throughout 2019-20 to ensure that the many projects that the OOCA is working on, are finalised within allocated budgets and stipulated timeframes.

The OCA noted the September 2019 Finance Report.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

7.1 Outback Futures

The Presiding Member referred to extensive discussion held earlier in the day relating to the OCA's 2019-20 budget variation, the associated increase in expenditure and the need for broad consultation to occur with stakeholders.

Moved by Member Marsland
Seconded by Member Fort

That the OCA resolves to:

- *Establish a section 11 committee, called Outback Futures, and to operate under the terms of reference as tabled.*
- *Delegate to the Presiding Member to approach suitable individuals to sit on the Outback Futures section 11 committee.*

Carried.

7.2 National Radioactive Waste Management Facility

The Director referred to correspondence recently received from the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science regarding draft guidelines based on recent discussions relating to a proposed National Radioactive Waste Management Facility. The correspondence provided the OCA with the opportunity to comment on three specific questions relating to eligible projects, the scope of grant allocations and the areas identified for the proposed sites, being The Flinders Ranges Council and the District Council of Kimba.

The Presiding Member declared an interest with regard to residing in the Blinman area, in regard to the area identified by the Community Benefit Programme.

In response to the request for comment relating to the discussion programme guidelines for the Community Benefit Programme of the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility within the district Council of Kimba and The Flinders Ranges Council, it is:

**Moved by Member Warmington
Seconded by Member Frahn**

That on behalf of the OCA, the following responses be provided:

1. *The nature of the scope of eligible projects should include small business and requests equality in access to community support programs;*
2. *No comment provided regarding the scope of grant allocations, as announced;*
3. *In relation to the Barndioota 50 kilometre radius: extend the eligibility area north using a radius equivalent to the distance from the proposed site to the most southerly point of the Flinders Ranges Council area;*
4. *Within the local government area of the Kimba Council: that the radius be extended to include a 50 kilometre radius from the sites in all directions.*
5. *The OCA reaffirms the contents of its letter to the Minister dated 10 May 2018.*

Carried.

7.3 Innamincka Airstrip

The Director raised the matter of the Innamincka Airstrip resealing and referred to the Governance Manager who confirmed that originally the airstrip had been identified to be re-sheeted only. In conjunction with sealing the South Australian side of the Adventure Way, the Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) identified that this would provide a good opportunity to also seal the Innamincka airstrip, while in the area. The Governance Manager advised that DPTI have reprioritised projects and are not proceeding with sealing the Adventure Way; this has resulted in DPTI not having a work crew in the area and therefore the Innamincka airstrip will not be sealed. The Governance Manager confirmed that the airstrip will be re-sheeted, in line with the original project quote received.

The OCA noted with disappointment that a project that would have made an isolated community less isolated has been reprioritised by DPTI. The Board agreed that it will continue to advocate for future investment to have the Innamincka airstrip sealed.

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 is 6 November 2019.

The Members noted the Business Plan Action Plan.

9. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

The Presiding Member tabled his report which included his attendance at the Livestock SA and South Australia Pastoral Board Forum held on 11 September in Port Augusta regarding the review of the Pastoral Act and also the Blinman Art Exhibition held early in September.

The Presiding Member advised that he also attended a meeting in Hawker regarding the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility process which also resulted in correspondence being forwarded to Minister Canavan, conveying the OCA's position on this matter.

The Presiding Member reported on correspondence that has been forwarded to Minister Knoll regarding the Outer Areas Registration concession, to the DPTI Director Finance regarding the OCA's 2019-20 budget variation and also the submission to the Pastoral Act review.

The Presiding Member referred to an invitation that he has received to attend the Upper North and Pastoralist Rural Business Support function, held in Adelaide on 20 November 2019. The Board agreed that there would be benefit in the Presiding Member attending this function.

Moved by Member Marsland

Seconded by Member Frahn

That the OCA supports the Presiding Member's attendance and associated expenses at the Upper North and Pastoralist Rural Business Support event.

Carried.

The OCA noted the Presiding Member's report.

10. MEMBERS REPORT

Member Fort confirmed that she has been appointed to the Lake Eyre Basin Advisory Committee for a 3 year term. Member Fort advised that the tourism sector still does not have a local contact person despite the efforts of the RDA FN. She advised that the job description has been reviewed, with the position being identified as an Economic Development Officer; the position is partly funded by the OCA.

Member Fort referred to recent statistics released by the SA Tourism Commission confirming that the last quarter had strong domestic expenditure and overnight visitation grew by 36%.

Member Warmington advised that there is a tourism strategic plan open for comment which is important in relation to the two jetty's in the Penong area. Member Warmington confirmed that there could be a real impact regarding tourism, therefore it is important to the Penong and Fowlers Bay communities that responses are submitted. The Director recommended that individual responses be submitted.

Member Warmington referred to the Productivity Commission outback concessions reform; the Director confirmed that a response will be submitted by the OOCA.

Member Frahn advised that at a recent meeting of pastoralists it was noted that many people are severely suffering within their families and also their business due to the ongoing drought and that there is a lot of concern around these circumstances with the upcoming summer and what that may hold. Member Frahn confirmed that a lot of the properties are largely depleted in stock numbers and it is possible large areas of the outback may soon be livestock free if the current conditions continue. Member Frahn referred to recent reports that some outback communities had run out of water and that this situation could potentially be more widespread.

11. DIRECTORS REPORT

The Director tabled his report and confirmed that community consultation has commenced on the variation to the OCA 2019-20 Business Plan and Budget and also the Minister has been advised of the OCA's intention to engage broadly with the Outback Community on future governance options.

The Director tabled a list of meetings that he has attended along with activities and community visits that OOCA staff have been involved in since the May OCA meeting. The Director summarised some of the activities that the OOCA has been working on including debt recovery, the outback water stations, noting that two are very likely to be completed by the end of October, the Leigh Creek oval receiving some attention with new grass being planted, the completion of the 2018-19 Annual Report along with the 2018-19 audit. The Director confirmed that the new public toilets planned for Innamincka are progressing.

The OCA noted the Director's report.

12. CORRESPONDENCE REGISTER

The Director tabled the Correspondence Register for the period August to early October 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 14 November if required, or 11, 12 December, location to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 1.05 pm.

W. M. Hutchings
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12-12-19