



Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

25 May 2023

Meeting No. 124

Members:

J Ferguson OAM (Presiding Member)

L Day, S Johnson OAM, N Sylvanius, A Vaughan ASM, T Wright

A handwritten signature in blue ink, located in the bottom right corner of the page.

Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held via Microsoft Teams
25 May 2023 at 8:03 am

Present:

J Ferguson OAM (Presiding Member), L Day, S Johnson,
N Sylvania, T Vaughan ASM and T Wright (OCA Members).
M Howard (Director, OCA) and J Greatbatch (Executive Officer, OCA).

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Presiding Member welcomed everyone to meeting 124 of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA).

No apologies were received.

2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Standing OCA Declaration of Interest 2022-23	
Member	Declaration of Interest
Presiding Member	Director, Invasive Animals Ltd Chair/Director, Nature Foundation Ltd Director, Frankenia Pty Ltd Deputy Chair, Heritage Council SA Member of the Parachilna Progress Association Secretary of the Beltana Progress Association
Member Day	Chair, Andamooka Opal Fields Tourism Association Inc Chair, SA Arid Lands – Kingoonya Landscape Group Board Member, Flinders Ranges and Outback SA Tourism Member, Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association Member, BHP Stakeholder Engagement Group
Member Johnson	CEO, District Council of Mount Remarkable
Member Sylvania	President, Beltana Progress Association Member, North Flinders Landscape group Member, World Heritage Community Reference Group Treasurer, Flinders Ranges Tourism Operators Association Executive

Member Vaughan	CE, Royal Flying Doctor Service Central Operations
Member Wright	Director/Owner, Wrightsair Pty Ltd Director/Owner, LA & AM Matthews Pty Ltd Director/Owner, William Creek Hotel Director/Owner, Up the Creek Pty Ltd Member of the William Creek Progress Association Board Member, Regional Development Australia Far North

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2023, Meeting No. 122 were circulated.

All Members agreed that the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority meeting held on 23 March 2023, meeting 122 as circulated to Members, be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Carried.

4.2 The minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2023, Meeting No. 123 were circulated.

All Members agreed that the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority meeting held on 19 April 2023, meeting 123 as circulated to Members, be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Carried.

5. OCA BUSINESS

5.1 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2023-24 (Ref. N23-01/05)

The draft Business Plan and Budget 2023/24 document was circulated for consultation from 19 April until 19 May 2023. Advertisement advising of consultation and encouraging comments appeared in the Advertiser and via social media posts, an email was sent to all Progress Associations and the document was available on the OCA's website.

The only feedback received acknowledged that the document had been read and made no further comment therefore no changes have been made to the 2023-24 Annual Business Plan and Budget.

All Members agreed that the 2023-24 Annual Business Plan and Budget be submitted to the Minister for Local Government for approval by 31 May 2023.

Carried.

5.2 Dog Registration Fees for 2023-24 (Ref. N23 – 02/05)

The Director tabled suggested dog registration fees for the unincorporated area of South Australia for 2023-24, noting there has been no increase from the previous year.

All Members agreed that the Outback Communities Authority:

1. Approves the dog registration fees as tabled for 2023-24, noting no increase, for staff to upload into Dogs and Cats Online (DACO) by 31 May 2023.
2. Approves the waiving of dog registration fees for the month of June 2023.

Carried.

5.3 Regional Development Australia Far North Local Government Nominee (Ref. N23-03/05)

The Presiding Member referred to correspondence received from the Chair of Regional Development Australia Far North (RDAFN) calling for Expressions of Interest from each of the member councils and the OCA for two committee member positions that are currently vacant.

All Members noted correspondence received from Regional Development Australia Far North and supported Member Vaughan submitting an expression of interest nominating to become a committee member on RDA Far North.

Carried.

5.4 State Bushfire Coordination Committee (Ref. N23-04/05)

The Presiding Member has been appointed to the State Bushfire Coordination Committee as the OCA's representative with Member Vaughan being appointed as deputy member. Both appointments are effective 20 April to 13 November 2023.

The Members noted the change to OCA representation on the State Bushfire Coordination Committee.

5.5 Leigh Creek Update (Ref. N23-05/05)

The Presiding Member requested that pursuant to the provision of Section 10(8) *Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009* that the meeting moves to an in camera session for discussion at this time.

Moved by Member Sylvaniaus
Seconded by Member Vaughan

The OCA move to an in camera session for discussion.

Carried.

Moved by Member Sylvaniaus
Seconded by Member Johnson

The meeting resumes out of camera.

Carried.

The meeting resumed at this time with the Director providing an update on the following Leigh Creek township transition items:

- Community meeting in Leigh Creek 18 May 2023
- Letter from the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
- Waste management audit (Northern Flinders Ranges)

All Members agreed to consider correspondence received from the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport regarding Leigh Creek assets and asked the Director to request further information on the matter and to also seek clarity regarding ongoing budget implications for the Outback Communities Authority in regard to Leigh Creek staffing and asset management.

Carried.

The OCA noted the Leigh Creek update.

5.6 Finance Report (Ref. N23-06/05)

The Director tabled the finance report as at 30 April 2023.

The OCA noted the finance report and understand the Machinery of Government changes have made it difficult for the OCA to review the correct financial position and acknowledged efforts of staff during this transition process.

6. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

7. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

The Presiding Member reported on activities since the April 2023 meeting which includes:

- Attending the Nilpena Ediacara National Park opening
- Attending the University of South Australia organized presentation on 'the Voice'.

Member Johnson left the meeting at this time.

8. MEMBERS REPORT

Member Vaughan provided a briefing on the William Creek RFDS clinic which will be forwarded to all Members for noting. Member Vaughan also provided an update on health care services for the communities of Innamincka and Yunta which have previously been provided from RFDS South Eastern Section based out of Broken Hill but will transition to being provided by RFDS Central Operations as at 1 July 2023.

Member Day reported on the following:

- Pastoral Board question and answer session to be held at Coober Pedy on Wednesday 31 May where people can meet the Board, ask questions and hear from Presiding Member Roger Wickes on the Board's direction, activities and future plans.
- Carbon Farming workshop to be held at Bon Bon Station on 1 June.
- Buffel Grass – needs to become declared as a weed of national significance (WoNS) to be recognized as a species with priority current and future threat to Australia, requiring coordinated and strategic management along with shared stakeholder investment to develop and implement best practice to prevent, eradicate, contain and/or minimize its impacts. Currently causing major economic, environmental and/or social impacts in a number of states/territories with strong potential for further spread. If declared a WoNS there will be a national strategic management plan developed.



- Cats a huge issue – Feral Cat Management Workshop to be held Friday 26 May with an introduction to tools, techniques and strategies. Arid Recovery provided a report to the Roxby Downs Council with recommendations for best practice cat management. This included enforcing the 2022 by-law requiring cats to be contained to the owners' premises which will have a strong positive effect for native wildlife.
- Outback roads – the Strzelecki track is busy but dangerous. There are Andamooka roads with pot holes, washouts and flood damage. Many PARs need significant maintenance. Increased Aussie Travel Code signage south of Coober Pedy would be beneficial.
- Drought resilience – important for Outback communities to prepare for future el nino events with drought food security and mental health support.
- Tourism – increased international and Australian travellers, including grey nomads and young families. Australian Air Safaris (luxury tour) visited early May, The Project recently featured Andamooka, there's been the discovery of Stromatolites by Dr Muhammad, an Astro biologist, Outback Opal Hunters filming, a fossil trail featuring Nilpena, Andamooka and Coober Pedy, an upcoming Astro trail featuring Arkaroola, Woomera, Andamooka and Coober Pedy, an art trail featuring Nilpena, Andamooka and Coober Pedy, cultural relevance of Dark & Quiet Sky protection – a free online event presented by the International Astronomical Union on 31 May, Opal on Mars – NHK visit and filming, Rotary Roxby District celebrating 15 years on 17 June with an underground mine dining experience.
- Opal mining took a hit last year due to floods – opal prices have since tripled in Coober Pedy.
- Farina Bakery open from 27 May until Sunday 23 July 2023

Member Wright reported outback roads conditions are currently a significant issue that needs to be addressed including PARs, and suggested there will be flow on impact from BHP taking over Carrapateena and Prominent Hill mining operations which the OCA will need to be aware of.

9. DIRECTORS REPORT


The Director reported on her activities and involvement since the April 2023 meeting which included:

- Meetings in Iron Knob and Leigh Creek – CARM/CCS on track in all three communities (Andamooka did not require an OCA convened meeting).
- Update to strategic planning process – initial workshop on July 24 – time to be confirmed. Further OCA led engagement in October / November.
- Update to public wi-fi – Ryan Klose (RFDS) looking for alternative funding sources.
- Draft terms of reference for new Outback Roads Consultative Forum to be circulated.
- Tyre audit in Northern Flinders Ranges region.
- Horses in Copley – exploring possible solutions.
- Attended Coongie Lakes workshop.
- Meeting with Pastoral Unit – Gawler Ranges community in August (23/24 to be confirmed). Board and staff invited.
- Salesforce CRM – exploring options to improve our engagement, contacts and records in relation to customer and community interactions.
- Policy Review – Deb Brokenshire – Governator has been engaged. Top priority is the Community Funding Policy.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The OCA noted that the next OCA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 21, Thursday 22 June 2023 at the OCA office, Port Augusta.

The meeting closed at 9:58 am.


22/6/23 