



Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

23 June 2022

Meeting No. 113

Members:

W McIntosh AM (Presiding Member)

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

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Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held at the OCA Boardroom, Port Augusta

23 June 2022 at 11:04 am

Present:

W McIntosh AM (Presiding Member), J Fort, F Frahn, S Johnson OAM,
T Vaughan ASM, L Warmington and T Wright (OCA Members).
M Sutton (Director, OCA), M Howard (Team Leader Community Services, OCA)
and J Greatbatch (Executive Officer, OCA).

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Presiding Member welcomed everyone to meeting 113 of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA).

No apologies have been received.

The Presiding Member welcomed guests Alex Hart, Director, Office of Local Government and Skana Gallery, Ministerial Adviser to the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Regional Roads and thanked them for their attendance.

2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Standing OCA Declaration of Interest 2021-22	
Member	Declaration of Interest
Presiding Member	Member of the Blinman Sports Club Member of the Blinman Progress Association Director, Gum Creek Station Pty Ltd Trustee, McIntosh Family Trust
Member Fort	Chair, Flinders Ranges and Outback SA Tourism Inc Director/Owner, Innamincka Hotel
Member Frahn	Director/Owner, R Warwick Pty Ltd Trustee, Holowiliena Pastoral Trust
Member Johnson	Board Member, Regional Development Australia Far North CEO, District Council of Mount Remarkable

Member Vaughan	CE, Royal Flying Doctor Service Central Operations
Member Warmington	Secretary, Penong & Districts Progress Association LJ & GM Warmington (Farming)
Member Wright	Director/Owner, Wrightsair Pty Ltd Director/Owner, LA & AM Matthews Pty Ltd Director/Owner, William Creek Hotel 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 5 May 2022, Meeting No. 111 were circulated.

Moved by Member Vaughan
Seconded by Member Warmington

That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 5 May 2022, meeting 111 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 30 May 2022, Meeting No. 112 were circulated.

Moved by Member Johnson
Seconded by Member Fort

That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 30 May 2022, meeting 112 as circulated to Members, be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Carried.

4.3 Business arising from minutes.

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

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

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

The Director advised a workshop will be held in the future to consider support for regional tourism at a community level once the Outback Futures Project outcomes are known. This matter is pending.

- 4.3.3 Authorisation Under Treasurer's Instruction 8 – Financial Authorisation (Ref. agenda item 6.1, Meeting No.103)

The Director confirmed the process of increasing the Presiding Member's financial delegation to an amount of not higher than \$1.5m is still ongoing, therefore this matter is pending.

- 4.3.4 Oodnadatta Health Service (Ref. agenda item 7.2, Meeting No.103)

The Director advised correspondence is yet to be forwarded to the Chair of Eyre and Far North Local Health Network - SA Health regarding the health service at Oodnadatta, therefore this matter is pending.

- 4.3.5 Mental Health Support for Outback Tourism Operators (Ref. agenda item 10, Meeting No.103)

The Director advised correspondence is yet to be forwarded to the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) and appropriate Ministers seeking mental health support services for tourism operators in Outback SA, therefore this matter is pending.

- 4.3.6 Presiding Members Report – Yunta Correspondence (Ref. agenda item 9, Meeting No.111)

The Director confirmed correspondence has been forwarded to the Yunta District Hall thanking them for the opportunity to meet with the OCA in the newly upgraded Yunta Race Club. This matter can be removed from the action list.

- 4.3.7 2022-23 Business Plan and Budget (Ref. agenda item 6.1, Meeting No.112)

The Director advised the 2022-23 Business Plan and Budget was provided to the Minister on 31 May 2022. This matter can be removed from the action list.

- 4.3.8 Dog Registration Fees (Ref. agenda item 6.2, Meeting No.112)

The Director confirmed dog registration fees for 2022-23 and a fee free month in June 2022 has been set in the Dogs and Cats Online (DACO) system therefore this item can be removed from the action list.

- 4.3.9 Outback Futures Final Recommendation to the Minister for Local Government (Ref. agenda item 6.3, Meeting No.112)

The Director confirmed the final Outback Futures recommendations were provided to the Minister on 31 May 2022 and can be removed from the action list.

Correspondence is yet to be sent to all relevant stakeholders thanking them for their contribution to the Outback Futures Project, therefore this item is pending.

- 4.3.10 Contract Agreement for Oodnadatta Aerodrome Fencing Upgrade (Ref. agenda item 7, Meeting No.112)

The Director advised the agreement with Saltbush Pastoral Services to undertake the Oodnadatta Aerodrome Fencing Upgrade project has been executed. This item can be removed from the action list.

5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

6. OCA BUSINESS

6.1 Declaration of Community Contribution (Andamooka) for 2022-23 (Ref. N22-01/06)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who confirmed that since 2012 the OCA has levied a community contribution in Andamooka as a fair and equitable way of sharing the cost of improved local services.

The Director advised that the 2022-23 Community Affairs Resourcing and Management (CARM) agreement including a community contribution has been consulted on with consultation closing on 10 June. One feedback submission has been received.

The Director advised an opportunity was provided to canvas the community on the CARM agreement at a community meeting on 6 June 2022 which the Director attended along with the Community Development Officer responsible for Andamooka.

The Director advised that the 2022-23 community contribution is similar to the previous year's levy, being \$400.00 per property unit on rateable land in Andamooka.

Moved by Member Johnson
Seconded by Member Vaughan

The OCA:

- *Seek the approval of the Minister for a fixed charge of \$400.00 per annum per property unit for community contributions in Andamooka.*
- *Subject to the Minister consenting to the fixed charge for Andamooka, execute the 2022-23 CARM agreement with Andamooka and on execution of the 2022-23 CARM agreement declares:*

A community contribution for the land over:

- *The township of Andamooka, and*
- *Those sites immediately adjacent the town of Andamooka not within the Andamooka Precious Stones Field or excluded from the operations of the Opal Mining Act 1995 held in Fee Simple, occupied under Crown Lease or Crown Licence, and*
- *Those portions of Section 1500 Out of Hundreds (Andamooka) occupied under Crown Licence (known as White Dam).*



Fixes a charge of \$400.00 per property unit on rateable land for the purposes of raising revenue for the provision of services and support to the community of Andamooka:

Pursuant to Section 181 (2) of the Local Government Act 1999 the community contribution be payable in four equal or approximately equal instalments as follows:

- *first instalment payable in September 2022;*
- *second instalment payable in December 2022;*
- *third instalment payable in March 2023; and*
- *fourth instalment payable in June 2023.*

Carried.

6.2 Declaration of Community Contribution (Iron Knob) for 2022-23 (Ref. N22-02/06)

The Director advised that the OCA has levied a community contribution in Iron Knob since 2013 for the purposes of raising revenue for the provision of services to support the Iron Knob community.

The Director advised that the Iron Knob Progress Association (IKPA) on behalf of the Iron Knob community have requested that a community contribution continue in 2022-23 and increase from \$240 pa to \$360 pa.

The Director advised that the IKPA has canvassed its community on the CARM agreement at a community meeting on 8 June 2022 which was attended by the OCA's Director and the Community Development Officer responsible for Iron Knob.

Consultation on the 2022-23 CARM agreement including a community contribution was finalised on 10 June, with one submission received.

Moved by Member Johnson
Seconded by Member Vaughan

The OCA:

- *Seek the approval of the Minister to a fixed charge of \$360.00 per annum, per property unit for community contributions in Iron Knob.*
- *Subject to the Minister consenting to the fixed charge for Iron Knob execute the 2022-23 CARM agreement with the Iron Knob Progress Association and on execution of the 2022-23 CARM agreement declares:*

A community contribution for the rateable land over the township of Iron Knob and fixes a charge of \$360.00 per property unit on rateable land for the purposes of raising revenue for the provision of services and support to the community of Iron Knob.

Pursuant to Section 181(2) of the Local Government Act 1999, the community contribution be payable in four equal or approximately equal instalments as follows:

- *first instalment payable in September 2022;*
- *second instalment payable in December 2022;*



- *third instalment payable in March 2023; and*
- *fourth instalment payable in June 2023.*

Carried.

6.3 Finance Report as at 31 May 2022 (Ref. N22-03/06)

The Director tabled the finance report as at 31 May 2022.

The Director referred to expenditure authority from the Minister to go over budget in 2021-22 due to the Outback Futures Project.

The OCA noted the finance report as at 31 May 2022.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

7.1 Outback Futures Project Public Release Strategy

The Presiding Member referred to earlier discussion by the OCA on how and when to release the Outback Futures Project final recommendations to the Outback Community and all relevant stakeholders.

Moved by Member Johnson
Seconded by Member Fort

That the OCA is committed to releasing the final recommendations publicly, but acknowledges the Government needs time to properly consider them. It will therefore write to the Minister requesting to meet with him and other members of Government at their earliest convenience to discuss the recommendations.

Carried.

7.2 Community Development Team Workplan

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Team Leader Community Services who tabled a proposed workplan for the Community Development Team for 2022-23.

The OCA supported and noted the 2022-23 workplan for the Community Development Team.

8. BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled the 2021-22 Business Plan Action Plan.

The Director referred to work completed during 2021-22 including the Outback Futures Project.

The Members noted the Business Plan Action Plan.

9. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

The Presiding Member referred to the response from the EPA regarding the Andmaooka asbestos issue discussed at an earlier meeting.

The OCA noted the response from the EPA resolving the Andamooka asbestos issue.

The Presiding Member attended a meeting of the State Bushfire Coordination Committee (SBCC) where it was noted that there are currently several vacancies in membership of the Outback Bushfire Management Committee (OBMC), with only 8 out of 17 available positions taken up. An options paper is to be developed to address the issue. The Outback was also mentioned at this meeting in the context of increasing tourist visitation to the regions, with CFS staff noting that a much greater fire risk could be associated with more people moving through areas of high fuel load, particularly in good seasons.

The Presiding Member also requested a closing comment on financial aspects be recorded with a view that should an Outback Levy ever be introduced as a result of the OCA's current recommendations, the first priority should be to ensure that it is applied with fairness to all relative and in proportion to the set \$250 residential base rate. The Presiding Member believes this equity issue applies particularly for the smaller and medium sized commercial operators in the region and anyone with issues of hardship or ability to pay.

Looking at the last three years, the Presiding Member reflected on the extraordinary period of time it has been for the OCA, not matched in recent decades for the range and depth of difficult issues the Board have had to tackle. As a result, this Board has sought to envision a unique form of governance for a truly unique region, whose opportunities present a remarkable value proposition for SA. The Board has also arrived at the very clear conclusion that more external investment in the region (from government) is required, particularly for the services that benefit the general visitor population. The Board's vision has also seen the need for the OCA to be more independent with a clearer leadership role in the region and to be able to provide more resources and targeted assistance for the resident outback communities to ensure their wellbeing and sustainability.

The Presiding Member noted it has been such a busy and productive period and offered his sincere thanks to all staff in the Office for the OCA for their great effort in dealing with the additional workload created by the Outback Futures Project alongside OCA business as usual. This effort and commitment, led by Director Mark Sutton and supported by Outback Futures Project Manager Margaret Howard, has been greatly appreciated by the Board.

Sincere thanks by the Presiding Member was also given to the OCA Board Members for their support and dedication to the extraordinary task that presented itself from the beginning of this term of office. Their effort has been committed and professional over a challenging period and as a member whose term is expiring, the Presiding Member said it has been a privilege to work as part of this team. His special thanks and best wishes went to other retiring Members Frances Frahn, Jo Fort and Lee Warmington who have made such valuable contributions to the work and reputation of the OCA.

10. MEMBERS REPORT

Member Frahn expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to work with the OCA during her term on the Board. She acknowledged a big issue for the Outback will be appropriate

resourcing to meet reasonable expectations of outback residents, at a time when attracting and maintaining residents depends on the ability to provide some services at a metro-equivalent level. The real cost of delivering services in the outback is significantly higher than any urban or regional comparison because of the cost of outback travel in a world where “time is money”. It is however vitally important for the OCA Board to prioritise visiting communities and gaining an understanding of the interests and aspirations of the outback community. Member Frahn also noted the OCA needs to improve the reach of ‘whole of outback’ communication to reach all intended recipients of mailouts.

Member Fort thanked the OCA for giving her the opportunity to connect and contribute during a period of time that had been personally challenging. She enjoyed a greater understanding of the wheels of government and thanked the Office for the OCA for their professionalism and dedication to the Outback. Member Fort reported that OCA funding has enabled the Aussie Travel Code campaign to become a nationally significant initiative in the promotion of responsible, respectful and sustainable tourism. She thanked the OCA for trusting Flinders Ranges and Outback Tourism to deliver on this project and she will continue to spend time and effort endorsing this work. Overall Member Fort’s time as an OCA Member has been a pleasure and she values the friendships made along the way.

Member Warmington reported on telecommunications issues on the West Coast with ageing infrastructure not being able to support business needs during the day. Increased tourist numbers also continue to put pressure on existing public facilities. He also expressed his appreciation for the opportunity of being on the Board and his gratitude to be able to get out into the Outback on the Yunta trip. He hoped his experience and passion for the West Coast added some value to his membership and highly recommended the OCA undertake more regional trips if possible. Member Warmington expressed his disappointment in not being able to see the outcomes from the Outback Futures recommendations but thanked his fellow Board Members and OCA staff for their great support and professional approach in their respective roles during his time with the OCA.

Member Vaughan thanked the outgoing members and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity of working with them.

Member Wright also reported ongoing telecommunications issues that urgently need to be addressed as it is causing critical safety risks and negative business implications. Outback roads also continue to be an issue and the increased regional visitation is adding to the pressure on the network. The Outback Water Stations are an important resource during times of increased regional visitation and it’s important they are maintained and able to be utilised year-round. Member Wright expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to work with the outgoing members and also with Marg Howard.

Member Johnson thanked both the outgoing Board Members for their commitment and professionalism and also Marg Howard for her dedication and hard work on the Outback Futures Project. Member Johnson also thanked the Presiding Member for his stewardship during their shared time with the OCA.

11. DIRECTORS REPORT

The Director tabled his report for the period leading up to the June 2022 meeting with a high priority on the provision of services within existing budget parameters.

The Director thanked Marg Howard for her role in steering the Outback Futures Project since its inception. Marg will return to her substantive role with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport at the beginning of the next financial year.

The Director also acknowledged outgoing Members Frahn, Fort and Warmington along with the Presiding Member Bill McIntosh who have come to the end of their terms. He thanked them for their support and guidance over the years and wished them all the very best for the future.

An extensive list of activities undertaken by the Office for the OCA was tabled by the Director.

The Team Leader Community Services thanked the OCA for their support particularly throughout the Outback Futures Project and expressed her appreciation for the diversity of her work requirements during the course of her time with the OCA.

12. CORRESPONDENCE REGISTER

The Director tabled the Correspondence Register for the period 17 March to 14 June 2022.

The OCA noted the Correspondence Register.

13. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

Nil.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The OCA noted that the next scheduled meeting will be held in Port Augusta on a date yet to be determined.

The meeting closed at 12:58 pm.

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