



Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

22 June 2023

Meeting No. 125

Members:

J Ferguson OAM (Presiding Member)

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

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Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held at the OCA Boardroom, Port Augusta
22 June 2023 at 9:01 am

Present:

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

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Presiding Member welcomed everyone to meeting 125 of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA).

An apology has been received from Member Wright.

2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

The OCA appreciated the presentations on 21 June 2023 by Paul Case and Vicki Beard, Leigh Creek Task Force on the Leigh Creek transformation process, Katrina Allan and Shaun McNicholas on branding and Juanita Chester, Manager Regional North & Outback, Department for Infrastructure and Transport on the maintenance of roads.

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 25 May 2023, Meeting No. 124 were circulated.

All Members agreed that the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority meeting held on 25 May 2023, meeting 124 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 The Director and Executive Officer will confirm the Presiding Member's financial authorization under the Department for Infrastructure and Transport. This item is pending.
- 4.2.2 The Director has requested representatives of the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) and Far North Local Health Network SA Health present to the OCA on the provision of health support services at their next meeting in Port Augusta. This item can be removed from the action list.
- 4.2.3 The Director will continue to develop clear funding application criteria therefore this item is ongoing.
- 4.2.4 The establishment of an outback roads consultative committee will be discussed during this meeting therefore this item can be removed from the action list.
- 4.2.5 Plans to instigate a new strategic planning process are ongoing, therefore this item is still pending.
- 4.2.6 The Director confirmed in-principal approval has been received from the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association, the Iron Knob Progress Association and the Leigh Creek Residents and Ratepayers Association for a new Community Affairs and Resourcing Management (CARM) Agreement incorporating a Community Contribution Scheme (CCS) for 2023-24. This item can be removed from the action list.
- 4.2.7 The Director will arrange a copy of the funding agreement with Regional Development Australia Far North funding agreement therefore this item can be removed from the action list.

- 4.2.8 The Director is further developing project scope and a partnership agreement between the OCA and the Royal Flying Doctor Service to deliver high speed public wi-fi across Outback SA. This item is pending.
- 4.2.9 A list of projects to be funded under the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, Phase 4 will be tabled for the Board's consideration once the funding amount has been confirmed. This item is pending.
- 4.2.10 The Director continues to develop a process for the OCA's next strategic plan. This item is pending.
- 4.2.11 The Director confirmed the draft 2023-24 Business Plan and Budget was provided to the Minister for Local Government on 31 May 2023, therefore this item can be removed from the action list.
- 4.2.12 The Executive Officer confirmed dog registration fees for 2023-24 have been updated on Dogs and Cats Online including a fee free month for June 2023. This item can be removed from the action list.
- 4.2.13 Member Vaughan has nominated for one of two Local Government positions on the RDA Far North board therefore this item can be removed from the action list.
- 4.2.14 The Director has requested an asset management plan for the Leigh Creek assets that are intended to be transferred to the OCA and is seeking clarity on ongoing budget implications for staffing at Leigh Creek. This item can be removed from the action list.

5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

6. OCA BUSINESS

6.1 Declaration of Community Contribution for Andamooka 2023-24 (Ref. N23-01/06)

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 2023-24 Community Affairs Resourcing and Management (CARM) agreement including a community contribution has been consulted on with consultation closing on 31 May 2023. No feedback has been received.

The Director advised the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association Inc. (APOMA) conducted its own consultation with the Andamooka community and did not require the Authority to be involved.

The Director advised that the 2023-24 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 Sylvanius

The OCA:

1. *Seeks confirmation of community acceptance from the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association for the 2023-24 Community Affairs Resourcing and Management (CARM) Agreement incorporating a Community Contribution Scheme (CCS).*
2. *Seek the approval of the Minister for Local Government for a fixed charge of \$400.00 per annum per property unit for community contributions in Andamooka.*
3. *Subject to the Minister consenting to the fixed charge for Andamooka, execute the 2023-24 CARM agreement with Andamooka and on execution of the 2023-24 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).*
4. *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 2023;*
- *second instalment payable in December 2023;*
- *third instalment payable in March 2024; and*
- *fourth instalment payable in June 2024.*

Carried.

6.2 Declaration of Community Contribution (Iron Knob) for 2023-24 (Ref. N23-02/06)

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 and advised that the Iron Knob Progress Association (IKPA) on behalf of the Iron Knob community have requested that a community contribution continue in 2023-24 at \$360 pa.

The Director advised that the IKPA has canvassed its community on the CARM agreement at a community meeting on 16 May 2023 which was attended by the OCA's Director and Assets and Works Officer.

Consultation on the 2023-24 CARM agreement including a community contribution was finalised on 5 June, with one submission received.

Moved by Member Johnson
Seconded by Member Sylvanius

The OCA:

- 1. Seek the approval of the Minister for Local Government to a fixed charge of \$360.00 per annum, per property unit for community contributions in Iron Knob.*
- 2. Subject to the Minister consenting to the fixed charge for Iron Knob execute the 2023-24 Community Affairs Resourcing and Management (CARM) agreement with the Iron Knob Progress Association.*
- 3. On execution of the 2023-24 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 2023;*
- second instalment payable in December 2023;*
- third instalment payable in March 2024; and*
- fourth instalment payable in June 2024.*

Carried.

6.3 Leigh Creek Community Contribution for 2023-24 (Ref. N23 – 03/06)

The Director confirmed that in accordance with the Authority's legislation and to support Leigh Creek's transition to an independent township, the OCA will introduce a community contribution levy of \$560 per property unit on rateable land in Leigh Creek for the first time in 2023-24, as a fair and equitable way to share the cost of improved local services.

The Director notified Members that the community contribution is likely to be increased for the 2024-25 financial year assuming assets are transferred to the local Association. An evaluation of the required service levels is expected to be conducted with the community by April 2024.

Consultation on the 2023-24 CARM including a community contribution closed 2 June 2023 and no submissions were received.

The recently formed Leigh Creek Residents and Rate Payers Association has also canvassed its community on the CARM agreement at a community meeting held on 18 May 2023 which was attended by the OCA's Director and Town Manager, Leigh Creek.

The community contribution is intended to operate similarly to the community contributions in Andamooka and Iron Knob in that:

- the township of Leigh Creek be declared as the area for the Leigh Creek Community Contribution Scheme (CCS).
- property units be adopted as the calculation basis for determining the contributions attributable to a particular property under the Leigh creek CCS.

Moved by Member Johnson
Seconded by Member Day

The OCA:

1. *Seeks the approval of the Minister for Local Government for a fixed charge of \$560 per annum per property unit for community contributions in Leigh Creek.*
2. *Subject to the Minister consenting to the fixed charge for Leigh Creek, execute the 2023-24 Community Affairs Resourcing and Management (CARM) Agreement with the Leigh Creek Residents and Ratepayers Association.*
3. *On execution of the CARM Agreement declares a community contribution for the rateable land over the township of Leigh Creek and fixes a charge of \$560 per property unit on rateable land for the purposes of raising revenue for the provision of services and support to the community of Leigh Creek.*

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 2023;*
- *Second instalment, payable in December 2023;*
- *Third instalment, payable in March 2024; and*
- *Fourth instalment, payable in June 2024.*

Carried.

6.4 CARM Agreement Policy (Replacing Community Funding Policy) (Ref. N23-04/06)

The Director tabled the proposed CARM agreement policy for the Members consideration. Guidelines will be developed along with CARM agreement documents that align with the policy once endorsed by the Authority. Consultation will occur as per the Authority's public consultation policy.

The Director will amend the proposed CARM Agreement Policy for the OCA to endorse out of session so that a four week consultation period can be commenced.

6.5 Outback Roads Consultative Forum (Ref. N23-05/06)

The Director tabled draft Terms of Reference for a new Outback Roads Consultative Forum to be provided to the Minister for Regional Roads, intended to represent the intentions and outcomes sought from forming the forum. It is intended for this forum to be representative of the whole Outback region and for it to function as a consultative body. The Authority has a keen interest in operations of a consultative body focusing on outback roads.

The OCA notes the draft Terms of Reference for the proposed Outback Roads Consultative Forum and requests for the Director to make some amendments for the OCA to endorse out of session prior to progressing to the Minister for Regional Roads for consideration.

6.6 Branding Project (Ref. N23-06/06)

The Director referred to a current lack of a collective identity for South Australia's outback region and its communities and proposed branding the region as Outback SA, an initiative of the Outback Communities Authority. The branding would be used consistently in physical signage, including state entry points, region entry points, airstrips and townships, the OCA's website and other platforms such as the sign-in page for public wi-fi (which would also incorporate the RFDS logo).

The Director intends for communities to be involved in determining the choice of imagery and signage 'add ons' for their townships.

The OCA endorses in principle the further development of the Outback SA branding project for consideration prior to adoption.

6.7 Pastoral Act Amendment Bill (Ref. N23-07/06)

The Presiding Member referred to correspondence received from the Deputy Premier and Minister for Climate, Environment and Water on intended changes to the *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989* (Pastoral Act) in order for the Pastoral Board to approve a range of uses of pastoral leases including carbon farming and conservation.

The OCA noted the correspondence received from the Deputy Premier on intended changes to the *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989* and would have appreciated an opportunity to engage in consultation on the proposed changes.

6.8 Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program Far North Project (Ref. N23-08/06)

The Director provided an update on the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program that was previously discussed and approved at the Authority's June 2021 and September 2022 meeting. The program completion deadline has been extended to 30 September 2024 and the Authority are asked to approve execution of a variation to the previously executed grant agreement with the extended deadline.

Moved by Member Sylvania
Seconded by Member Day

The OCA:

1. *Supports the revised participation of the OCA in the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program Far North Project as lead member of a consortium that would develop a regional drought resilience plan for the Outback region, with the extended completion deadline of 30 September 2024.*

2. Approves for the Presiding Member to execute the grant agreement with PIRSA for the amount of \$297,000 (ex GST).

Carried.

6.9 OCA Meeting Schedule 2023-24 (Ref. N23 – 09/06)

The Director tabled a proposed meeting schedule for 2023-24 for the Authority to approve in order to ensure the Outback Community knows in advance when OCA meetings are to be held and the location of each meeting venue.

The Authority resolves to meet on the following dates, at the recommended locations, noting that if the meeting schedule is to change, notification will appear on the OCA's website.

- Wednesday 26 July 2023, Microsoft Teams meeting
- Thursday 10 August 2023, Microsoft Teams meeting
- Tuesday 26, Wednesday 27 September 2023, location to be confirmed
- Wednesday 25 October 2023, Microsoft Teams meeting
- Wednesday 22 November 2023, Microsoft Teams meeting (to be confirmed)
- Monday 4, Tuesday 5 December 2023, Port Augusta
- Wednesday 21, Thursday 22 February 2024, Port Augusta
- Wednesday 20, Thursday 21 March 2024, Port Augusta
- Wednesday 17 April 2024, Microsoft Teams meeting
- Wednesday 22, Thursday 23 May 2024, community visit - William Creek
- Wednesday 19, Thursday 20 June 2024, Port Augusta

6.10 Leigh Creek Update (Ref. N23-10/06)

The OCA appreciated information provided during the presentation on the Leigh Creek transformation process by Paul Case, Independent Chair and Vicki Beard, Project Manager, Leigh Creek Task Force on 21 June 2023.

The OCA have not made any decisions or recommendations in the relation to the future of Leigh Creek and note they will consider the Leigh Creek asset management plan once received from the Leigh Creek Task Force before responding to correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport.

6.11 Finance Report (Ref. N23-11/06)

The Director tabled the finance report as at 31 May 2023.

The OCA noted the finance report makes it difficult for the Authority to review the correct financial position and request the Director seek urgent clarification on the financial status of the OCA.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

The Members discussed advocating for improved power supply in Outback communities in order to support economic growth opportunities and asked the Director to invite



representatives of current outback power supply companies to present to the Board at their next meeting in Port Augusta.

8. BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Board notes the 2022-23 Business Plan Progress Report and request that the 2023-24 Business Plan is reviewed at the September 2023 meeting.

9. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

The Presiding Member reported on activities since the May 2023 meeting which included meeting with the Minister for Local Government on Monday 19 June 2023. The Presiding Member was pleased to discuss recent positive budget announcements with the Minister and his staff. The Presiding Member also discussed the upcoming OCA nomination process with the Minister.

10. MEMBERS REPORT

Member Vaughan reported the Royal Flying Doctor Service continues to progress Central Operations taking over health provision services at Yunta as of 1 July 2023.

Member Day reported on assisting Andamooka community members understand the CARM and CCS consultation process. OCA staff will

Member Johnson expressed his appreciation for the recent presentations to the OCA.

11. DIRECTORS REPORT

Many of the Director's activities and involvement since the May 2023 meeting, such as public wifi, branding and Leigh Creek transition have been dealt with in this meeting's proceedings. Other items of note are the recruitment process for three vacancies, gearing up for the deployment of the Salesforce Customer Relationship Management System and working with the Executive Officer and various DIT staff to establish a clear financial position for the Authority.

12. CORRESPONDENCE REGISTER

The Director tabled the Correspondence Register for the period 16 February to 8 June 2023.

The OCA noted the Correspondence Register.

13. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

There were no confidential orders.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The OCA noted that the next OCA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 26 July 2023 to be held via Microsoft Teams.

The meeting closed at 12:41 pm.

