



# Minutes

## Outback Communities Authority

23 February 2023

Meeting No. 121

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  
23 February 2023 at 11:04 am

### Present:

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

### 1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Presiding Member welcomed everyone to meeting 121 of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA), particularly the OCA's new Director Marg Howard.

No apologies have been 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 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 19 January 2023, Meeting No. 120 were circulated.

**Moved by Member Vaughan**  
**Seconded by Member Sylvanius**

*That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 19 January 2023, meeting 120 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 Business Plan Progress Report (Ref. agenda item 4.3.6, Meeting No.95)

The Presiding Member advised there will be work undertaken in the coming months on the OCA's next 5-year Strategic Management Plan, therefore this matter can be removed from the action list.

- 4.2.2 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.

- 4.2.3 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 as this matter requires further investigation.

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

The Presiding Member confirmed this matter can be removed from the action list as it will be addressed by item 4.2.7.

4.2.5 LRCI Program Phase 3 – Project Funds Reallocation (Ref. agenda item 6.1, Meeting No.119)

The Presiding Member confirmed this item can be removed from the action list.

4.2.6 Outback Futures Update (Ref. agenda item 6.1, Meeting No. 120)

The Executive Officer confirmed a copy of the final Outback Futures Project recommendations to the Minister has been published on the OCA's website and a copy forwarded to all outback community Progress Associations and registered stakeholders. This item can be removed from the action list.

4.2.7 Members Reports (Ref. agenda item 10, Meeting No. 120)

The Director confirmed an invitation will be sent to the Royal Flying Doctor Service and to the Eyre and Far North Local Health Network SA Health to present to the OCA at a workshop at their next meeting in Port Augusta on the provision of health services in the Outback Community including mental health support. This matter is pending.

5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

6. OCA BUSINESS

6.1 State Bushfire Coordination Committee (Ref. N23-01/02)

The Presiding Member referred to correspondence received from the State Bushfire Coordination Committee (SBCC) in relation to nomination of a replacement Deputy to the Member representing the OCA on the SBCC.

The OCA requested further investigation into this item for the Director to report on at the next meeting.

6.2 Dog and Cat Management – OCA Dog Registrar (Ref. N23-02/02)

The Presiding Member referred to a requirement under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* (DCM Act) for each local government council constituted under the *Local Government Act 1999* to appoint a Dog Registrar.

Moved by Member Vaughan  
Seconded by Member Sylvaniaus

*The OCA appoints Director Marg Howard as the new Dog Registrar.*

Carried.

6.3 Regional Development Australia Far North Quarterly Report October to December 2022 (Ref. N23-03/02)



The Presiding Member referred to the Regional Development Australia Far North (RDA Far North) quarterly report for October to December 2022.

The OCA noted the RDA Far North quarterly report for October to December 2022.

6.4 Finance Report (Ref. N23-04/02)

The Director tabled the finance report as at 31 January 2023 and advised that some work is still to be done following the Machinery of Government change to ensure transactions transferred from the Attorney General's Department to the Department for Infrastructure and Transport have been coded correctly.

**Moved by Member Johnson**  
**Seconded by Member Day**

*The OCA noted the finance report as at 31 January 2023 and requested an accurate finance report be provided for future meetings.*

Carried.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

7.1 OCA Grant Funding Application Criteria

The Presiding Member referred to an earlier workshop where the Members identified a need to develop clear grant funding application criteria outback community organisations are able to use as a guide for their funding request submissions.

**Moved by Member Sylvanius**  
**Seconded by Member Johnson**

*The OCA will develop clear criteria for applications seeking grant funding.*

Carried.

7.2 Section 11 Committee

The Presiding Member referred to an earlier workshop where the Members discussed the benefits of establishing a Committee in accordance with Section 11 of the *Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009* (the Act) that is able to be informed and proactive in advocating for required repairs and upgrades of regional roads and will report to the OCA on current issues requiring addressing and improvements undertaken to the road network within the OCA's area.

**Moved by Member Wright**  
**Seconded by Member Johnson**

*The OCA will establish a Committee for regional roads in accordance with Section 11 of the Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009 to assist the OCA to better address issues with and advocate for improvements in the regional road network within the unincorporated area of South Australia.*

Carried.

## 8. BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Director tabled the business plan progress report. The Presiding Member referred to discussion at an earlier workshop on developing a new strategic plan. In the interim the OA will develop the Annual Business Plan and Budget for 2023-24.

Moved: Member Vaughan

Seconded: Member Sylvania

*The OCA will instigate a new strategic planning process and in the interim will develop the Annual Business Plan and Budget 2023-24.*

Carried.

## 9. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

The Presiding Member reported on activities since the January 2023 meeting including participating in a trip to the Far North of the State with the Hon Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, the Hon Geoff Brock MP, Minister for Local Government and Minister for Regional Roads and the Hon Clare Scriven MLC, Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. The communities of Pimba, Woomera, Roxby Downs, Andamooka, William Creek, Marree, Lyndhurst, Leigh Creek, Copley and Beltana were visited during the trip and the feedback received from outback community members was that it was a positive experience to have the Ministers visit with, talk to and listen to community members.

The Presiding Member thanked everyone who played a part in the organisation of the trip which went exceptionally well and both the Presiding Member and the Director learnt a lot. She reported feeling genuinely excited about the future and the current desire to listen to people's issues and respond positively.

Some systemic issues that were raised during the Minister's trip that the OCA can influence as and when an opportunity either arises or is created:

- **Housing** – a shortage of social housing across communities and some of the housing that exists is in a very poor state with no significant investment in housing for many years.
- **Planning** – a lack of town planning in outback communities and developments can be considered in isolation of the community as a whole which can lead to undesirable outcomes. Very little compliance with planning regulation except where checks are made on approved development. There are some developments with no approval.
- **Infrastructure** – some communities have a need for new infrastructure. Grant programs do not always accommodate new facilities when they have a high capital cost and require matching funding. Energy provision may be inadequate to enable development.
- **Roads** – roads are a problem almost everywhere due in part to extensive weather events. Discussions were held during the trip with the Director on ways of bringing a network of communities and businesses together to have a consultation mechanism that is more responsive.
- **Child Care** – there is a shortage of child care and new models for remote areas are needed.
- **Health** – trauma response was discussed specifically as outback community members are often ill prepared first responders. Discussions are needed with both



the RFDS and Eyre and Far North Local Health Network SA Health on better ways to get trauma counsellors in communities in settings that are fit for purpose.

- Policing – the general absence of policing was discussed as the number of police officers has been reduced and vacancies remain unfilled. These issues need to be taken up with SAPOL as at times it has led to ambulances not being dispatched.
- OCA specific issues:
  - unlit public toilets
  - conflict between privately run commercial enterprises and those run by Progress Associations for free/donation eg campgrounds
  - inequity between what has been provided to communities
  - how to better support Progress Associations
  - OCA vehicle equipment
  - aerodromes at Andamooka, Marree and Parachilna
  - cat and dog management

The Presiding Member also thanked the staff for their work over the last few months and during the change in leadership. The OCA will be establishing a new vision and is keen to be a genuine advocate for the bush.

## 10. MEMBERS REPORT

Member Vaughan reported that the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) currently service the north east of the state from the Broken Hill base, however from 1 July 2023 those services will be looked after by RFDS, Central Operations.

Member Wright reported he is keen to see the LRCI Program Phase 3 Starlink Wi-Fi service projects progressed.

Member Day reported the Andamooka Opal Fields Tourism Association continues work to progress development of the Andamooka airstrip. This has been surveyed and is currently receiving support from the Department for Energy and Mining to resolve gazettal issues for the airstrip.

## 11. DIRECTORS REPORT

The Director reported on the Minister's trip she participated in along with the Presiding Member.

The Director also reported that the Office for the OCA staff structure will undergo some work to make sure the office is operating at full capacity along with some planning in case additional funding is provided through the Outback Futures process. There will also be some investigation into building skills and knowledge and identifying where current gaps are. Work will also be done to update the OCA's website and to make it more relevant.

## 12. CORRESPONDENCE REGISTER

The Director tabled the Correspondence Register for the period 13 January to 15 February 2023.

The OCA noted the Correspondence Register.

13. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

Nil.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The OCA noted that the next OCA meeting is scheduled for 23 March 2023 to be held via Microsoft Teams.

The meeting closed at 12:23 pm.

