



# Minutes

## Outback Communities Authority

23 March 2023

Meeting No. 122

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 via Microsoft Teams  
23 March 2023 at 8:36 am

**Present:**

J Ferguson OAM (Presiding Member), L Day, S Johnson OAM,  
N Sylvanius, 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 122 of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA).

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 Sylvanius	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 February 2023, Meeting No. 121 were circulated.

**Moved by Member Vaughan**  
**Seconded by Member Day**

*That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 23 February 2023, meeting 121 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 Authorisation Under Treasurer's Instruction 8 – Financial Authorisation (Ref. agenda item 6.1, Meeting No.103)

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.

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

Following further investigation, correspondence is not required 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 can be removed from the action list.

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

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.

- 4.2.4 State Bushfire Coordination Committee (SBCC) (Ref. agenda item 6.1, Meeting No.121)

Nominations for OCA representation on the State Bushfire Coordination Committee (SBCC) have been forwarded to the SBCC therefore this matter can be removed from the action list.

4.2.5 Finance Report (Ref. agenda item 6.4, Meeting No. 121)

The Director confirmed staff are continuing to work with the DIT finance team to ensure the finance report is accurate. This item can be removed from the action list.

4.2.6 OCA Grant Funding Application Criteria (Ref. agenda item 7.1, Meeting No. 121)

Clear funding application criteria will be developed for the OCA to approve at a meeting this financial year therefore this item is pending.

4.2.7 Section 11 Committee (Ref. agenda item 7.2, Meeting No. 121)

Planning has commenced for establishing an OCA Section 11 Committee for regional roads. This matter is pending.

4.2.8 Business Plan Progress Report (Ref. agenda item 8, Meeting No. 121)

A new strategic planning process will be instigated in the coming months. This matter is pending.

5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

Member Sylvanius joined the meeting at this time.

6. OCA BUSINESS

6.1 Proposed Community Affairs Resourcing and Management Agreements Incorporating a Community Contribution for Andamooka, Iron Knob and Leigh Creek for 2023-24 (Ref. N23-01/03)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who confirmed both the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association (APOMA) and the Iron Knob Progress Association are currently being consulted with to confirm their in-principle approval to enter into Community Affairs Resourcing and Management (CARM) agreements for 2023-24, similar to what is currently in place. Both of the current CARMs incorporate a community contribution and expire 30 June 2023.

As part of the transition process, a community contribution will also be implemented for the first time in Leigh Creek in 2023-24. A CARM agreement will need to be developed with the newly formed Leigh Creek Residents and Ratepayer's Association incorporating a community contribution for 2023-24.

Consultation on CARM agreements and community contributions is required before the OCA can make an informed decision about entering into agreements for 2023-24. Consultation will include a draft budget for each community.

If community feedback suggests general acceptance of the CARM agreements, a similar methodology to the current agreements will be adopted, being:

- A community contribution will apply from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.
- Property units remain the basis for determining the contributions attributable to a particular property.
- The dollar value of community contributions would be set having considered the consultation feedback, however it is expected to be the same amount as in 2022-23 for Andamooka and Iron Knob at \$400pa and \$360pa respectively. An amount is yet to be determined for Leigh Creek.
- The OCA's Concession's Policy on rebates, remissions, hardship and postponements would apply.

Ministerial approval for the dollar value of each community contribution is required.

Once consultation has been completed, a recommended report will be provided to the OCA for approval.

The Director tabled a consultation timeline and a community engagement strategy checklist for the Members.

**Moved by Member Johnson**  
**Seconded by Member Sylvaniaus**

*The OCA notes the Office for the OCA will:*

1. *Confirm in-principal approval from the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association Inc. to consider a new Community Affairs Resourcing and Management agreement incorporating a community contribution for 2023-24 and approve the consultation plan as tabled.*
2. *Confirm in-principal approval from the Iron Knob Progress Association Inc. to consider a new Community Affairs Resourcing and Management agreement incorporating a community contribution for 2023-24 and approve the consultation plan as tabled.*
3. *Develop Leigh Creek's first Community Contribution Scheme for 2023-24 with the Leigh Creek Residents and Ratepayer's Association for an amount yet to be determined and update the OCA once that amount is decided on.*

Carried.

## 6.2 Business Plan and Budget 2023-24 (Ref. N23-02/03)

The Director will develop a draft Business Plan and Budget for 2023-24 and provide to the Board out of session for endorsement prior to the next Board meeting.

**Moved by Member Johnson**  
**Seconded by Member Vaughan**

*The OCA supports development of the OCA's Business Plan and Budget for the 2023-24 financial year for circulation and endorsement prior to the next Board*

*meeting in order to consult with communities and obtain Ministerial approval of the budget for expenditure from 1 July 2023.*

Carried.

6.3 Regional Development Australia Far North Funding Agreement 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2028 (Ref. N23-03/03)

The Director tabled a draft funding agreement between Regional Development Australia Far North (RDA Far North) and the OCA for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2028. The current partnering agreement will expire 30 June 2023.

The Director also tabled correspondence from the Chief Executive Officer of RDA Far North detailing service delivery provided to the Far North of South Australia which includes economic, business and workforce development services to organisations, businesses and industry within the OCA's region.

The Members requested the Director find out further information to update the OCA with at their next meeting.

6.4 Leigh Creek Update (Ref. N23-04/03)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who provided an update on the Leigh Creek township and its transition.

The OCA noted the Leigh Creek update.

6.5 Project Update (Ref. N23-05/03)

The Director tabled an update on the progress of projects funded by the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program. Office for the OCA staff are currently seeking an extension for some projects funded by Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the program and will need to seek an extension for some projects funded by Phase 3.

The OCA noted the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program project update.

6.6 Finance Report (Ref. N23-05/03)

The Director tabled the finance report for February 2023 and advised that staff continue to work with the DIT finance team to ensure all transactions have been recorded accurately following the OCA's Machinery of Government transition from the Attorney General's Department to the Department for Infrastructure and Transport.

The OCA noted the finance report.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.



## 8. BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The OCA noted the Business Plan Progress Report.

## 9. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

The Presiding Member reported on activities since the February 2023 meeting which includes attending the Local Government and State Government economic forum and civic reception to be held in Adelaide on 23, 24 March 2023.

## 10. MEMBERS REPORT

Nil.

## 11. DIRECTORS REPORT

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

- Visited Leigh Creek – met with staff, inspected issues at airport, resource recovery centre, dump
- Senior Animal Management Officer Forum (SAMOF) – plus invitation to participate in the development of a state wide cat management strategy
- Attended RDA Far North dinner – guest speakers from the Northern Water Project
- Met with regional PIRSA staff, CED Pika Wiya, Caroline Reichstein, Senior Financial Counsellor with Rural Business Support, Clare Wiseman CE RDA Far North – and regular monthly meetings now established
- Was supposed to join the Far North ZEMC but technology prevented
- Investigating best way to deal with debt recovery – question the wisdom to involve FERU – have discussed services available within DIT with Danica Horvat Team Leader, Claims, Debt Recovery & Insurance - Safety, Risk and Assurance DIT
- Working with Mick Lorenz and Mark Elms on a new consultative structure for Outback Roads. Suggest a partnership between DIT and OCA - any costs to be shared. OCA to convene. Minister Brock to be briefed and ask us to form.
- Addressing the issue of progress associations that are non-compliant with our community funding policy
- Working on DIT compliant role statements in order to fill vacancies
- Instigated a review of OCA's 'branding' and website – to be linked to the strategic planning process and its outcomes as well as review of policies and procedures – would be good to have simple online processes for CARM, sponsorship etc.
- One Outback – Joe currently working on next issue to be out in April. Suggest the one after is the last. Resource intensive and not reaching our key outback audiences. Also suggest a more regular monthly email newsletter that includes grants information - from September (or earlier if resources permit)
- Negotiating with Dr John Read and Copley to run a trial of his cat management scheme
- Regular spot with Narelle Graham on ABC regional SA/Broken Hill radio to talk about the Outback

- Circus SA – funding, youth officers, initially one year, possibly up to three if successful – Leigh Creek, Copley, Oodnadatta, Marree, Andamooka. Liaising with schools to identify support ‘buddies’ for the youth officers
- Lincoln Gap Recovery
- Ceduna next week to attend the Eyre and Far West Regional Plan Workshop (Planning SA)

## 12. CORRESPONDENCE REGISTER

The Director tabled the Correspondence Register for the period 16 February to 9 March 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 19 April 2023 to be held via Microsoft Teams.

The meeting closed at 10:30 am.

