



Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

27 September 2023

Meeting No. 131

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
27 September 2023 at 8:35 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 131 of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA).

No apologies were received.

2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Standing OCA Declaration of Interest 2023-24	
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 Chair, 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 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 10 August 2023, Meeting No. 129 were circulated.

**Moved by Member Vaughan
Seconded by Member Wright**

That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority meeting held on 10 August 2023, meeting 129 as circulated to Members, be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Carried.

4.2 The minutes of the electronic meeting held from 30 August to 4 September 2023, meeting 130 as circulated to Members, be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

**Moved by Member Vaughan
Seconded by Member Wright**

That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority meeting held from 30 August to 4 September 2023, meeting 129 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 The Director confirmed updated financial authorisations have been approved by the Minister and will be discussed during this meeting. This item can be removed from the action list.

4.3.2 The Director confirmed funding application criteria has been developed therefore this item can be removed from the action list.

4.3.3 The Director continues to partner with the Royal Flying Doctor Service to deliver high speed public wi-fi across Outback SA. This item is ongoing.

4.3.4 A list of recommended projects for phase four of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program will be considered in this meeting therefore this item can be removed from the action list.



- 4.3.5 A project plan for developing the blueprint for Outback SA was discussed at an earlier workshop and progress will be discussed as a stand-alone agenda item until the blueprint has been completed. This item can be removed from the action list.
- 4.3.6 The Director has discussed quarterly reporting with the Chief Executive Officer of Regional Development Australia Far North. This will be reviewed once the first quarterly report for 2023-24 is received.
- 4.3.7 The Director confirmed the grant offer for municipal services program funding for Dunjiba has been executed and returned to the Office for Local Government. This item can be removed from the action list.
- 4.3.8 The Executive Officer confirmed feedback was provided to the Pastoral Board on their draft Strategic Plan. This item can be removed from the action list.
- 4.3.9 The Director confirmed the OCA's draft 2022-23 financial statements were executed with the Presiding Member's electronic signature and provided to DIT finance staff by the due date. This item can be removed from the action list.
- 4.3.10 The Director will find out further information on regional road funding. This item is ongoing.

5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

6. OCA BUSINESS

6.1 Authorisations under Treasurer's Instruction 8 (Ref. N23-01/09)

The Minister for Local Government has reviewed and approved updated financial authorisations and delegations for the Outback Communities Authority in line with Treasurer's Instruction 8 (TI8) and revoked the previous Instrument for Contract and Financial Authorisations and Payment and Disbursement Authorisations that were set up when the OCA was aligned with the Attorney-General's Department.

The Minister has also approved for the Presiding Member to subdelegate contract and financial authorisations to OCA staff through an instrument of writing as required by TI8. This Instrument has been tabled for the Authority to review. Updates to the Instrument of Delegation and Authorisation include increasing the Presiding Member's payment authorisation limit from \$110,000 to \$2.2 million (GST inclusive) and increasing the Director's contract authorisation from \$110,000 to \$330,000 (GST inclusive) to ensure the OCA can operate efficiently.

Under TI8, the Presiding Member has contract authorisation up to \$15 million and Ministerial approval will be required for anything over \$15 million. Any contracts with a value over \$1 million will be provided for the Authority to review and a register of the use of financial delegations during the financial year will be tabled for the Authority to review at the first meeting of the consecutive financial year.



Moved by Member Johnson
Seconded by Member Sylvanius

The Outback Communities Authority notes:

- *The Minister for Local Government has revoked the Instrument for Contract and Financial Authorisations and Payment and Disbursement Authorisations that were previously approved when the Authority was aligned with the Attorney-General's Department.*
- *The updated Instrument of Authorisation for the Presiding Member's payment and disbursement authorisation under Treasurer's Instruction 8 that has been approved by the Minister for Local Government.*
- *The updated Instrument of Delegation and Authorisation allowing the Presiding Member to sub delegate to OCA staff that has been approved by the Minister for Local Government.*
- *All contracts over \$1 million in value will be provided to the Authority to review.*

The Authority approves for the Presiding Member to execute the Instrument of Delegation and Authorisation, sub delegating financial authorisations and delegations to OCA staff.

Carried.

6.2 Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, Phase 4 (Ref. N23-02/09)

The Director advised that OCA staff have assessed a full list of project submissions for consideration for Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program, Phase 4 grant funding. The assessment criteria included addressing at least one objective of the current strategic plan and scoring (out of five) for five of the six key goals in the current business plan and budget; liveability, vibrancy, connection, future opportunities and the brand.

The recommended and prioritised projects meet guidelines and are achievable with the completion deadline of end June 2025.

Moved by Member Sylvanius
Seconded by Member Vaughan

The Outback Communities Authority endorses the list of recommended and prioritised projects to be nominated for inclusion by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport under the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, Phase 4, noting that no Member participated in the decision making process relating to their community.

Carried.

6.3 Outback SA Regional and Community Identity Project (Ref. N23 – 03/09)

The Director referred to a presentation for the proposed Outback SA regional and community identity project made to the Authority at the June and September workshops. A detailed and costed project plan has been developed and engagement with key stakeholders will be undertaken. Signage quotes will be obtained and it is

planned for the infrastructure elements of the project to be funded from the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, Phase 4.

Moved by Member Johnson
Seconded by Member Day

The Outback Communities Authority endorses further development and implementation of the Outback SA regional and community identity project.

Carried.

6.4 2022-23 Annual Report (Ref. N23-04/09)

The Director tabled the draft 2022-23 Annual Report that will need to be finalised and submitted to the Minister for Local Government prior to 30 September 2023 as per Section 18 (1) of the *Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009*.

The Annual Report will also include the OCA's audited financial statements and Independent Auditor's Report which are expected to be provided by the Auditor-General's Department this week.

A template of the Annual Report is supplied by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet each year. Final copies of the Annual Report are provided to the Minister for tabling in Parliament and once this has occurred, are to be made available to the public exclusively by electronic means.

The Outback Communities Authority noted the draft 2022-23 Annual Report and approve for the final document to be executed electronically by the Presiding Member.

Carried unanimously.

6.5 Leigh Creek Update (Ref. N23-05/09)

The Director provided an update on the Leigh Creek transformation process. Members discussed the big transition for the town to become self-managing and agreed on the importance of the OCA supporting the Leigh Creek community throughout the process. While there will no doubt be issues that need to be addressed, the Members have full confidence in the Leigh Creek Residents and Ratepayers Association in navigating the transition.

6.6 Finance Report (Ref. N23-06/09)

The Director tabled the finance report as at 31 August 2023 and the Members discussed the 2023-24 budget.

The OCA noted the finance report.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

7.1 Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association Correspondence

The Members discussed correspondence received from the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association (APOMA) asking for the Authority's legal advice regarding a recent incident at the community hub.

Members' discussion concluded that:

- OCA staff should never put themselves at risk and should always follow the South Australian Public Sector Values and Behaviours Framework and Code of Ethics.
- The OCA is not responsible for conflicts that occur between community members and issues should be referred to the police where appropriate.

The Director will provide a suitable response to APOMA on behalf of the Authority.

7.2 Procurement

The Members discussed the procurement process and the implications on the OCA conducting its business. The Members asked the Director to investigate making the process more efficient.

Moved by Member Johnson
Seconded by Member Wright

The Outback Communities Authority requested the Director investigate making the procurement process more efficient.

Carried.

8. BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Director tabled the business plan progress report noting a new strategic planning process will commence in the coming months. The Members noted the Business Plan progress report.

9. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

The Presiding Member reported on activities since the August 2023 meeting which included:

- Being fortunate to attend the ICOMOS international Heritage Council conference in Sydney recently. 1800 Heritage professionals and community members from all over the world gathered. A particular focus that grabbed by attention was the economic benefits of maintaining our heritage. Whilst not part of her role with the OCA, the Presiding Member was struck by the opportunity that exists for outback communities on promoting and linking up the Heritage listed properties and sites in the OCA's region. Over the coming months, the Presiding Member will initiate some conversations with the Board and within the region to take up these opportunities moving forward.
- Participating on the panel for OCA staff recruitment interviews.
- Working closely with the Director on the Leigh Creek transformation process



10. MEMBERS REPORT

Member Day reported on the following:

- Indigenous Ranger Groups from across SA met at Roxby Downs Station for an inaugural SA Arid Lands Indigenous Ranger gathering with an aim for Rangers to connect and share knowledge and learn about caring for country. This was also attended by Indigenous Desert Alliance, BHP, Arid Recovery, Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation, Member for Giles the Hon. Eddie Hughes MP and SA Arid Lands Landscape Board.
- Andamooka Station homestead refurbishment almost complete with ongoing progress with regards to the water supply.
- Kokatha have launched its own Indigenous ranger program in partnership with Arid Recovery with goals of good land management for pastoralists and conservation.
- Progressing the Andamooka airstrip upgrade project
- SA Arid Lands Kingoonya group have welcomed their new Community Landscape Officer, Tori Love.
- Tourism planning and work continues for:
 - Astro trails
 - Fossil and gem trails
 - Cultural tourism
 - Day/weekend trips for international tourists

11. DIRECTORS REPORT

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

- Arranging for emergency alarms and additional smoke detectors to be installed in the Mildred Street office.
- Organising a staff planning day on October 20 (the office will be unattended on this day)
- Getting the monthly finance report into shape has been an ongoing focus for both the Director and Executive Officer and has taken hours of work and meetings. The Director, Office of Local Government has been a very helpful support.
- New staff Phil Gibb, Manager Policy and Community Affairs and Sally Bradbury, Community Development Officer commenced on Monday September 18. Sandra Spaeth, Project and Administrative Officer will commence on Tuesday October 3. Guy Sadler, Field Officer Standards, Risk and Compliance is due to commence on October 17. Simone Brock will commence a two-year contract in November in the role of Manager, Corporate and Strategic Projects.
- Sheep in Beltana have been an ongoing concern since late July as an Outback issue that is difficult to get traction with.
- Required to provide a presentation to the next Leigh Creek Task Force meeting on October 10 about the Board's strategy for Leigh Creek once the Task Force completes its work.
- OCA leadership team now meeting fortnightly (Director, Manager Policy and Community Affairs and Executive Officer). The Manager, Corporate and Strategic Projects will join the team once she commences.
- Big office / building clean out prior to new staff starting.

- Attended the Nantawarrina Indigenous Protected Area's 25th anniversary on September 2 on behalf of the Presiding Member.
- Audit report now finalised.
- Involving DIT staff with Iron Knob Progress Association over safety improvements and upgrades required before freight routes can be gazetted.
- Attending the Coober Pedy Economic Forum on Thursday October 28.
- Attending community meetings in Oodnadatta and Copley (Aroona Aboriginal Council) along with Community Development Officer Joe Calvert and accompanied by Dini Soulio, Commissioner for Consumer and Business Services to deal with dysfunctional associations noncompliant with the incorporated associations legislation. Plans established for both communities to build membership and become constitutional.

12. CORRESPONDENCE REGISTER

The Director tabled the Correspondence Register for the period 4 August to 21 September 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 Wednesday 25 October 2023 to be held via Microsoft Teams.

The meeting closed at 11:02 am.



5/12/2023