

Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

23 October 2020

Meeting No. 96

Members:

W McIntosh (Presiding Member)

J Fort, F Frahn, M Marsland, C Michelmore, T Roach, L Warmington

Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held at the Outback Communities Authority Office, 12 Tassie Street, Port Augusta

23 October at 9.45 am

Present:

W McIntosh (Presiding Member), J Fort, F Frahn,
M Marsland, C Michelmores, and L Warmington (OCA Members)
M Sutton (Director, OCA), B Gough (Governance Manager, OCA), Marg Howard (Outback
Futures Project Manager, OCA) and J Greatbatch (Business Support Officer, OCA).

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Presiding Member welcomed everyone to meeting 96 of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA).

An apology from Member Roach has been received.

2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

The Presiding Member referred to the informative presentation regarding the Aussie Travel Code campaign that has evolved from the Tread Lightly initiative, and thanked Member Fort for delivering the presentation in her capacity as Chair, Flinders Ranges and Outback (Tourism Committee).

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

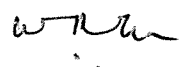
4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 20 August 2020 were circulated.

Moved by Member Michelmores
Seconded by Member Marsland

That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 20 August 2020, meeting number 95 as circulated to Members, be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Carried.



4.2 Business arising from minutes.

The Board noted the reference to the scheduled September 2020 meeting was deferred until October in order to allow further time for deliberation by the Outback Futures Committee.

4.2.1 Presiding Member's Report – Response to the Premier of South Australia (Ref. agenda item 9, Meeting No. 93)

The Director confirmed that correspondence has been forwarded to the Premier of South Australia regarding the receipt of the Outback Futures Committee's report. This item to be removed from the action list, the response to Livestock SA is pending.

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

The Director confirmed that the 2020-21 Business Plan and Budget document along with the 2019-20 Report Card has been provided to stakeholders, therefore this matter to be removed from the action list.

4.2.3 Presiding Member's Report – Response to Deputy Premier regarding Outback Futures Consultation (Ref. agenda item 4.3.7, Meeting No 95)

The Director confirmed that correspondence has been forwarded to the Deputy Premier regarding her attendance at the Outback Futures consultation meeting, therefore this item to be removed from the action list.

4.2.4 2020-21 Board Meeting Schedule - Presentation (Ref. agenda item 6.5, Meeting No.95)

The Director referred to the presentation provided earlier in the day regarding the Aussie Outback Code (Tread Lightly initiative), therefore this item to be removed from the action list.

4.2.5 Regional Development Australia Far North Quarterly Report (Ref. agenda item 6.6, Meeting No.95)

The Director confirmed that the COVID Impact Data August 2020 report was provided to the Members on 14 October, therefore this item to be removed from the action list.

4.2.6 Business Plan Progress Report (Ref. agenda item 8, Meeting No.95)

The Director confirmed that the title of the Business Plan Progress Report has been amended as per discussion at the August 2020 meeting, therefore this item to be removed from the action list. It is noted that a workshop will be held in February 2021 to consider flexible planning relating to the OCA's 5-year Strategic Management Plan.

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

The Director advised that a workshop will be held in the future to consider support for regional tourism at a community level, after the completion of the Outback Futures Consultation.

5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

6. OCA BUSINESS

6.1 2020-21 Auditor General's Report (Ref. N20-01/10)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who confirmed that the 2019-20 audit was only finalised on 30 September 2020. The Director confirmed that the Office for the OCA was able to submit the 2019-20 Annual Report to the Minister as per legislative requirements.

The Director highlighted that the Principal Audit Manager has confirmed that only two minor matters were raised as a result of the audit, relating to the Memorandum of Understanding between the OCA and the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI), which is now the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT), regarding specific responsibilities being confirmed and also the management of leave for Office for the OCA staff.

The Director explained that in the past a Management Representation letter is provided by the Auditor General outlining matters arising from annual audits, but as the two matters are minor, a formal letter will not be provided to the OCA.

The Director explained that as the OCA will be transitioned to the Attorney-General's (AG) Department as part of the Machinery of Government decision, the OCA will not seek to finalise the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) but rather will initiate discussion with the AG Department for a MoU to be developed, once the transition has been completed.

The Director tabled the email received from the Principal Audit Manager and also correspondence that accompanied the 2019-20 financial statements.

The Members thanked the Office for the OCA staff for their effort in ensuring the 2019-20 audit was finalised and that the annual report was provided to the Minister in line with legislative requirements.

The OCA noted the Auditor-General's email report for 2019-2020.

6.2 Finance Report – 30 September 2020

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled the Finance Report as at 30 September 2020, as provided by the Department of Infrastructure and Transport.

The Director referred to the current cash at bank balance which is currently inflated due to the early receipt of grant payments.

The Director gave a summary of Drought Communities Programme projects that are yet to be finalised and major infrastructure maintenance works that will need to be undertaken in the near future.

The Board again noted that the format of the financial reports is unhelpful in managing the business of the OCA and highlighted the need for a financial reporting system that more accurately reflects OCA project lines.

Moved Member Michelmore
Seconded Member Frahn

That the OCA requires a financial reporting system that more accurately reflects project lines and therefore request that the Director take the opportunity of the Machinery of Government changes to address this issue with the Attorney-General's Department.

Carried.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair put forward a Pastoral Board consultation opportunity for the OCA to provide feedback on the Pastoral Act Review by COB 23 October 2020.

The Board noted the draft response letter and endorse the letter being forwarded by the deadline.

8. BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled the 2020 -21 Business Plan Action Plan. The Director was pleased to advise that all projects are currently on track and that at an operational level, it continues to be business as usual for Office for the OCA staff while being mindful of COVID restrictions.

The Members noted the Business Plan Action.

9. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

The Presiding Member summarised the activities he has been involved in leading up to the OCA meeting:

- The Presiding Member attended Outback Futures community consultation meetings in Marree, Blinman, Yunta, Iron Knob and Penong.
- 21 and 22 September the Presiding Member attended an Outback Futures Committee (OFC) meeting where the results of the consultation process were analysed and considered, a process was decided on for providing feedback to the communities including a report on what we heard during the consultation.

- The Presiding Member assisted the Director in ensuring 2019-20 Audit requirements were met, and since has been advised that the OCA was rated highly in terms of management and compliance standards.
- Approval was given by the Presiding Member for a letter to the Deputy Premier, the Hon Vickie Chapman MP, Minister for Planning and Local Government, to be sent thanking her for her attendance at the William Creek Outback Futures consultation forum, advising of general progress with the Outback Futures Project and acknowledging the benefits of recent government assistance for the region including drought support and the announced \$100m upgrade of the Strzelecki Track.
- The Presiding Member committed to being available to attend the official opening of the Beltana Outback Water Station which is to be held in November.
- On 20 October the Presiding Member responded to a request for a comment from the ABC on the issue of roadside rubbish in the Outback, and referred to a commitment already made by the OCA in promoting a positive culture for travel in the Outback through the Tread Lightly campaign.

The OCA noted the Presiding Member's report.

10. MEMBERS REPORT

Member Fort summarised the projects that she has been involved in:

- **The Lake Eyre Basin Community Basin Advisory Committee**
Member Fort advised that Dr Jacki Schirmer from the University of Canberra is undertaking a Lake Eyre Basin (LEB) Wellbeing Survey. The data collected from the LEB survey will capture how the community are managing social and economic changes in the LEB and the impacts of this on the liveability of their towns and regions.

At this stage the Secretariat has asked the Committee to share appropriate contacts so that survey packs can be distributed which includes contacts for specific sharing on social media/sharing of contacts for promotion via email/sharing of contacts in aboriginal groups. Additionally, they are asking for support from individuals who have influence in the region.

Member Fort confirmed that she will keep the OOCA and OCA informed of future developments with this project.

- **Flinders Ranges and Outback (FRO)**
Member Fort confirmed that Mr Brendan Bevan, Port Augusta Council/Wadlata Tourism Manager, has joined the Board.

Member Fort explained that there is ongoing discussion regarding the FRO website/social media and digital marketing and that this should be incorporated on the one platform. Member Fort added that the Visitor Guide which is produced by FRO every year should be refreshed in print and online and some form of print promotion needs to continue for the region.

Member Fort confirmed that the Flinders and Outback Videography and Stills Shoot is complete; the project had a 10-day duration and tracked the Flinders and the Outback in August and September.

Member Fort advised that Mitsubishi partnered with FRO for the project and 4 models volunteered their time. Locations included Melrose/Quorn/Hawker/Blinman/Arkaroola/Marree/William Creek/Coober Pedy and Station Stays Holowiliena/Almerta/Upalinna/Bendleby/Skytrek Willow Springs/Flinders Bush Retreats/Alpana.

Member Fort advised that the shoot was jointly funded by FRO/SATC with a personal donation from The Outback Loop; investment being \$35K. Member Fort explained that the purpose of the shoot was to capture a suite of images for tourism operators -the intention was to gather as much content and diversity of imagery as possible. Each business photographed will receive up to 10 images to use for their own marketing and promotion.

- **The Aussie Travel Code #TreadLightly**

Member Fort confirmed that the Aussie Travel Code campaign has received very positive attention and thanked the OCA Board and the Office for the OCA for enabling FRO to lead The Aussie Travel Code Campaign #TreadLightly.

Member Fort confirmed that following the press release on 15/9/20, the Aussie Travel Code was picked up for discussion on ABC Radio in SA, QLD, WA and NSW.

Member Fort advised that this is the first stage and is hopeful that the campaign will grow attracting additional funding so that the messaging can be continued. Member Fort advised that the current focus is on digital platforms and encouraged everyone to keep an eye on the Facebook page and share the messages across networks.

networks@aussietravelcode #aussietravelcode

#TreadLightly

hello@aussietravelcode.com.au

www.aussietravelcode.com.au

- **Building Better Regions Funding *Rising Stars***

Flinders Ranges and Outback (FRO) Tourism partnered with RDAFN and were successful in securing \$20K to mentor 4 potential leaders in the Flinders and Outback Region.

Member Fort confirmed that there were 11 applicants from Andamooka/Roxby/Coober Pedy and the Flinders region and that the online course will commence October 29 2020 and will be completed by the end of April 2020.

The OCA notes the Rising Stars program and congratulates the successful applicants Frances Frahn, Michelle Reynolds, Leila Day and Danielle Paraha.

Member Frahn met with the Coordinator-General the Hon Shane L Stone AC QC and his team from the National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency who consulted on what has and what hasn't worked with drought relief support.

11. DIRECTORS REPORT

The Director tabled his report referring to the high outputs achieved over the preceding few months by the staff including the progress of the Drought Communities Programme Round 1 and 2 projects, the completion of the initial Outback Futures consultation and subsequent report and recommendations finalised for Cabinet consideration provided by the Leigh Creek Task Force.

The Director also provided a list of meetings that he has attended including meeting with the Minister regarding the Outback Futures project, Leigh Creek Task Force meeting, Outback Futures consultation meeting held in Penong and a community meeting in Andamooka.

The Director has been invited, on behalf of the OCA, to participate on the Growth State Water Infrastructure Corridor's Project Steering Committee.

The Governance Manager has received approval from the Director to commence on the sale of properties in Iron Knob that have been identified for non-payment of rates pursuant to the Local Government Act 1999.

The Director tabled an extensive list of activities undertaken by the Office for the OCA since the August meeting.

12. SECTION 11 COMMITTEE REPORT – OUTBACK FUTURES

The Presiding Member and Outback Futures Project Manager provided an update regarding the progress of the Outback Futures Project including:

- The initial consultation occurred in August 2020 with 10 community meetings scheduled, attended by approximately 120 people
- 42 responses were received either online or in hard copy
- A summary document 'What we heard' has been developed identifying the key themes, patterns and issues and has been distributed to stakeholders along with a compilation of 'raw' feedback and a letter from the Presiding Member
- A two-day meeting was held in September to consider consultation outcomes and as a result the 'Future Directions and Governance of the OCA' report has been developed
- Phase 2 of the Project will commence in November 2020 with an aim for maximum participation and engagement using an interactive webinar platform that functions well with low band width.

The Outback Futures Project Manager confirmed that a briefing will be provided to the Minister soon to give an update on the Outback Futures Project.

The Presiding Member advised that a report and recommendations are intended to be provided to the Minister early in 2021, with a draft provided to the OCA Board for consideration at its December meeting.

The OCA note and support the Section 11 Committee update.

The OCA request a briefing be provided to the Minister with an update on the Outback Futures Project.

The OCA note and support Phase 2 of the Outback Futures Project.

13. CORRESPONDENCE REGISTER

The Director tabled the Correspondence Register for the period 13 August to 9 October 2020.

The OCA noted the Correspondence Register.


14. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

Nil.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The OCA noted that the next scheduled teleconference meeting is to be held on 19 November if required, or the next formal meeting is scheduled for 16, 17 December 2020 in Adelaide.

The meeting closed at 12:30pm.


16-12-20