



# Minutes

## Outback Communities Authority

19 August 2021

Meeting No. 103

Members:

W McIntosh AM (Presiding Member)

J Fort, F Frahn, S Johnson OAM, A Vaughan ASM, L Warmington, T Wright

# Minutes

## Outback Communities Authority

Meeting held at the OCA Boardroom, Port Augusta

19 August 2021 at 9.17 am

**Present:**

W McIntosh AM (Presiding Member), J Fort, F Frahn, S Johnson OAM,  
A Vaughan ASM, L Warmington and T Wright (OCA Members)  
M Sutton (Director, OCA), M Howard (Outback Futures Project Manager) and J Greatbatch  
(Executive Officer, OCA).

### 1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Presiding Member welcomed everyone to meeting 103 of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA).

No apologies have been received.

The Members noted the Minister for Planning and Local Government, the Hon Vickie Chapman MP is visiting the OCA today from 11-11:45am.

### 2. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

### 3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Standing OCA Declaration of Interest 2021-22	
Member	Declaration of Interest
Presiding Member	Member of the Blinman Sports Club Director, Gum Creek Station Pty Ltd Trustee, McIntosh Family Trust
Member Fort	Chair, Flinders Ranges and Outback SA Tourism Inc Director/Owner, Innamincka Hotel
Member Frahn	Director/Owner, R Warwick Pty Ltd Trustee, Holowiliena Pastoral Trust
Member Johnson	Board Member, Regional Development Australia Far North CEO, District Council of Mount Remarkable
Member Vaughan	CE, Royal Flying Doctor Service Central Operations
Member Warmington	Secretary, Penong & Districts Progress Association LJ & GM Warmington (Farming)
Member Wright	Director/Owner, Wrightsair Pty Ltd Director/Owner, LA & AM Matthews Pty Ltd Director/Owner, William Creek Hotel Member of the William Creek Progress Association

#### 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2021 were circulated. One minor amendment was made to record - agenda item 6.7 had the word 'carried' inserted.

Moved by Member Johnson  
Seconded by Member Fort

*That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 25 June 2021, meeting number 102 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 Director confirmed that a workshop will be held once the Outback Futures Project outcomes are known to consider the flexible planning relating to the OCA's 5-year Strategic Management Plan, therefore this matter is pending.

4.2.2 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, therefore this matter is pending.

4.2.3 Business Plan Progress Report (Ref. agenda item 8, Meeting No.99)

The Director advised correspondence is yet to be forwarded to the Minister for Tourism (the Premier) regarding the impact of increased regional tourism to both the environment and infrastructure, therefore this matter is pending.

4.2.4 Deputations/Presentations (Ref. agenda item 2, Meeting No.102)

The Director confirmed correspondence has been forwarded to Mr Reg Dodd congratulating him on being recognized for his service to the Indigenous community of Marree with a Medal of the Order of Australia. This item can be removed from the action list.

4.2.5 Future Drought Fund Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program (Ref. agenda item 6.1, Meeting No.102)

The Director confirmed he has notified PIRSA that the OCA is willing to participate in the Future Drought Fund Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program. This item can be removed from the action list.

4.2.6 Declaration of Community Contribution – Andamooka (Ref. agenda item 6.2, Meeting No.102)

The Director confirmed that the declaration of the community contribution for Andamooka was gazetted on 29 July 2021, therefore this item can be removed from the action list.

4.2.7 Declaration of Community Contribution – Iron Knob (Ref. agenda item 6.3, Meeting No.102)

The Director confirmed that the declaration of the community contribution for Iron Knob was gazette on 29 July 2021, therefore this item can be removed from the action list.

4.2.8 ICPA and SOTA Sponsorship Request (Ref. agenda item 6.4, Meeting No.102)

The Director confirmed correspondence has been sent to the ICPA and SOTA Fundraising Representative declining the sponsorship proposal as submitted and encouraging future sponsorship requests for the OCA to support delegates to attend ICPA or SOTA meetings, conferences or events. This item can be removed from the action list.

4.2.9 Outback Futures Project (Ref. agenda item 6.7, Meeting No.102)

The Director confirmed a meeting was held with John Comrie on 9 August 2021 and a brief was developed to provide further information, therefore this item can be removed from the action list.

4.2.10 Delegation and Execution of Grant Agreements (Ref. agenda item 6.8, Meeting No.102)

The Director confirmed the Instrument of Delegation and Sub Delegation was upgraded to comply with the Treasurer's Instruction 8 on 6 July 2021, therefore this item can be removed from the action list.

4.2.11 Drought Communities Programme Round 2 – Agreement of Variation (Ref. agenda item 6.9, Meeting No.102)

The Director confirmed the Agreement of Variation for the Drought Communities Programme Round 2 has been executed, therefore this item can be removed from the action list.

4.2.12 Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program Round 8 – Leigh Creek Aerodrome Runway Resealing Project (Ref. agenda item 6.10, Meeting No.102)

The Director confirmed the Agreement for the Leigh Creek Aerodrome Runway Resealing Project has been executed and therefore this item can be removed from the action list.

4.2.13 Grant Offer for Aboriginal Lands – Municipal Services Program SA – OCA For Dunjiba (Ref. agenda item 6.11, Meeting No.102)

The Director confirmed the Municipal Services grant offer for Dunjiba has been executed, therefore this item can be removed from the action list.

5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

6. OCA BUSINESS

6.1 Authorisation Under Treasurer's Instruction 8 – Financial Authorisation (Ref. N21-01/08)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled the use of financial delegations by the Office for the OCA in 2020-21. The Director also referred to the new process for payment and disbursement authorisations and contract and financial authorisations delegated authority that has been implemented by the Attorney General's Department (AGD) and executed by the Presiding Member. This new process better aligns with authorisations under Treasurer's Instruction 8 – Financial Authorisation. The OCA will be provided with a record of actions at its first meeting each financial year.

Moved by Member Johnson  
Seconded by Member Warrington

*The OCA:*

- 1. Notes the use of financial delegations for 2020-21 by the Office for the Outback Communities Authority as set out in the record of actions;*
- 2. Endorses the new process for payment and disbursement authorisations and contract and financial authorisations implemented by AGD and executed by the Presiding Member; and*
- 3. To be consistent with the Treasurer's Instruction 8, the Board approve for the financial delegation for the Presiding Member of the OCA to be increased to an amount not higher than \$1.5m.*

Carried.

The Members moved discussion to item 6.11 at this time. The Director left the room for this discussion due to an ongoing declared conflict of duty and interest.

6.11 Regional Development Australia Far North Local Government Nominee (Ref. N21-11/08)

The Presiding Member tabled a letter received from Regional Development Australia Far North (RDA FN) inviting nominations from the OCA for one or two local government designated vacancies on the RDA FN Board.

Moved by Member Johnson  
Seconded by Member Warrington

*The OCA:*

- 1. Note the letter from the Chair of Regional Development Australia Far North (RDA FN) seeking nominations from the OCA for one of two local government designated vacancies on the RDA FN Board; and*
- 2. Nominate Member Wright to be considered for appointment into one of the two designated local government vacancies on the RDA FN Board.*

Carried.

The Director rejoined the meeting at this time.

Member Johnson left the meeting to attend a prior commitment.

6.2 Memorandum of Administrative Arrangement for the Alignment of Procurement Frameworks Under Treasurer's Instruction 18 - Procurement (Ref. N21-02/08)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who provided an outline of the new South Australian Government Procurement Framework ('the Framework') which is governed by the Treasurer's Instructions 18 (TI18) and supporting policies and came into effect on 1 July 2021. This applies to all public authorities as defined in the Public Finance and Audit Act 1987.

On behalf of the OCA, the Director is seeking advice from the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) for the OCA to become a Procurement Authority in its own right which will enable the OCA to develop its own procurement framework and protect from the variances between agencies when Machinery of Government (MoG) transitions occur. The OCA will be fully briefed prior to making a decision when all advice from DTF has been received.

Moved by Member Vaughan  
Seconded by Member Fort

*The OCA:*

1. *Notes the outline of the South Australian Government Procurement Framework as it applies to the Outback Communities Authority;*
2. *Endorses the executed Memorandum of Administrative Arrangement for the alignment of procurement frameworks under Treasurer's Instruction 18 – Procurement between the OCA and the Attorney General's Department made on 29 June 2021; and*
3. *Notes the discussions with the Department of Treasury and Finance regarding the Outback Communities Authority looking to become a Procurement Authority in its own right.*

Carried.

6.3 Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program Round 8 – SA Government Co-Contribution and MoAA for Leigh Creek and Oodnadatta Aerodromes (Ref. N21-03/08)

The Director referred to an application that was submitted by the OCA late 2020 to round 8 of the Commonwealth Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program (RAUP) for funds to undertake resealing works to the runways, aprons and taxiways on the Leigh Creek Aerodrome, and to erect a new animal proof fence at the Oodnadatta Aerodrome, both of which are owned and operated by the OCA. In late May 2021 the OCA was advised on its success in obtaining RAUP grant funding. Both of these grant funding agreements have been executed by the OCA.

In June 2021 the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) advised that the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, the Hon. Corey Wingard MP approved SA Government co-funding of \$578K towards the resealing of two runways at Leigh Creek Aerodrome and towards animal proof fencing at Oodnadatta.

In accordance with Treasurer's Instruction 8, approval is sought from the OCA to execute the agreement with DIT for the matching funding as the amount exceeds the delegated authority given to the Director of the OCA.

Moved by Member Vaughan  
Seconded by Member Wright

*The OCA execute the Memorandum of Administrative Arrangement with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) for fifty percent of the funding (\$578K) towards animal proof fencing at Oodnadatta Aerodrome and the resealing of two airstrips at the Leigh Creek Aerodrome, a total project value of \$1.156m.*

Carried.

6.4 Dog and Cat Management Act Exemptions (Ref. N21-04/08)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled the Dog and Cat Management Board (DCMB) Exemptions Policy, which the OCA has previously referred to for applying for exemptions from certain provisions of the Dog and Cat Management Act (DCM Act) due to a lack of resources to comply fully with the DCM Act.

Exemption was granted in 2017 by the DCMB, which has now lapsed and needs to be applied for again.

As there has been no change in the OCA's operational circumstances in the administration of its obligations under the DCM Act, it is recommended the OCA seeks a renewal of the previously sought exemptions.

Moved by Member Vaughan  
Seconded by Member Warmington

*The OCA:*

1. *Notes the exemptions for the operation from the specified provisions of the DCM Act previously granted by the Dog and Cat Management Board; and*
2. *Approves the application for renewed exemptions for the OCA from the specified provisions of the DCM Act by the Dog and Cat Management Board, namely:*
  - *Section 26 (1)(d) – Appoint at least 1 full-time authorised person;*
  - *Section 26A (2) – A plan of management must include provisions for parks where dogs may be exercised off-leash; and*
  - *Section 26 (1)(e) – make satisfactory arrangements for the detention of dogs seized under this DCM Act.*

Carried.

6.5 Board Meeting Schedule 2021-22 (Ref. N21-05/08)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who requested the OCA approve a formal Board Meeting Schedule for 2021-22. This allows the Outback Community to know in advance when and where OCA meetings will be held and assists office personnel in the planning and preparation of meeting agendas and papers.

The OCA 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 website immediately:

- Wednesday 18, Thursday 19 August 2021 at Port Augusta
- Wednesday 22, Thursday 23 September 2021 at Port Augusta
- Thursday 14 October 2021, a teleconference (to be confirmed)
- Wednesday 10, Thursday 11 November 2021 at Port Augusta
- Wednesday 8, Thursday 9 December 2021, Adelaide (to be confirmed)
- Thursday 27 January 2022, a teleconference (to be confirmed)
- Wednesday 23, Thursday 24 February 2022 at Port Augusta
- Thursday 24 March 2022, a teleconference (to be confirmed)
- Wednesday 4, Thursday 5 May 2022, regional meeting (location to be confirmed)
- Wednesday 22, Thursday 23 June 2022 at Port Augusta

6.6 Regional Development Australia Far North Quarterly Report to June 2021 (Ref. N21-06/08)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled the Regional Development Australia Far North (RDA FN) Quarterly Report to June 2021.

Significant achievements noted in the report include the release of the Growing Our Regional Workforce Review Summary Document that was released at the Regional Workforce summit held on 3 June 2021 by Regional Development South Australia.

The OCA noted the RDA FN Quarterly Report to June 2021.

6.7 Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 2 – Funding Deed Between the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and the Outback Communities Authority (Ref. N21-07/08)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled information provided on the Local Roads Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program Phase 2. As with the first phase of the program, the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) has been allocated funding and projects were jointly identified by the OCA and DIT and submitted to the Commonwealth for approval which has now been received.

In accordance with Treasurer's Instruction 8, approval is sought from the OCA to execute the funding deed with the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport for LRCI grant funding totaling \$1.142m (GST exclusive).

The OCA noted Members McIntosh, Fort and Warmington's declarations of potential conflict of interest in this matter.

Moved by Member Frahn  
Seconded by Member Vaughan

The OCA:



1. Approves the execution the Funding Deed between the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and the OCA for phase 2 of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCI) for community projects to the value of \$1.142m; and
2. Authorises the execution of LRCI project funding agreements for the approved projects as follows:
  - Aussie Travel Code \$250,000
  - Pump Tracks at Marree, Penong, Andamooka and Leigh Creek \$400,000
  - Copley Community Park Upgrade \$232,000
  - Aroona Dam Picnic Shelter \$100,000
  - Penong Water Harvesting \$60,000
  - Blinman Sports Centre/CFS, Stage 2 \$100,000

Carried.

6.8 OCA Risk Management Register - Review (Ref. N21-08/08)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled the OCA's Risk Register which is continually assessed by OCA staff and reviewed annually by the OCA. Minor amendments have been made to the register as part of the review.

Moved by Member Vaughan  
Seconded by Member Warmington

*The OCA endorses the Risk Register as reviewed with the addition of Outback Water Stations and the Port Le Hunte Jetty to the Assets and Facility Management category.*

Carried.

6.9 Financial Management Compliance Program 2020-21 (Ref. N21-09/08)

The Presiding Member referred to the Director who tabled a Minute from the Chief Executive of the Attorney-General's Department (AGD) to all Business Unit Heads to complete its compliance program for the 12 month period ending 30 June 2021.

No material changes were made to the Financial Management Compliance Program (FMCP) for 2020-21 primarily due to the Machinery of Government transition from DIT to AGD where there was a process of realigning OCA business with AGD processes.

Moved by Member Wright  
Seconded by Member Vaughan

The OCA:

1. Note the Minute from the Chief Executive of the Attorney-General's Department (AGD) to all Business Unit Heads to complete its compliance program for the 12 month period ending 30 June 2021; and
2. Endorse the OCA's 2020-21 Financial Management Compliance Program assessment.

Carried.

6.10 Re-Establishment of Building Fire Safety Committee for Outback Areas (Ref. N21-10/08)

The Director referred to correspondence received from the Attorney-General's Department regarding a proposal to re-establish the Building Fire Safety Committee for outback areas and the participation of the OCA on the Committee.

The appropriate authority for the unincorporated areas is the State Planning Commission who will establish the Building Fire Safety Committee.

**Moved by Member Frahn  
Seconded by Member Fort**

*The OCA:*

- 1. Note the intention of the State Planning Commission to re-establish the Building Fire Safety Committee for the Outback Areas; and*
- 2. Approve the participation of the OCA as a Member of that Committee.*

Carried.

The Outback Futures Project Manager joined the meeting at this time.

6.12 Outback Futures August 2021 Update (Ref. N21-12/08)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Outback Futures Project Manager who provided an update on preparations for the Coober Pedy strategic planning workshop that is scheduled to take place 3-5 September 2021.

The Outback Futures Project Manager also referred to a brief that has been written as the basis for a contract for services to develop policy and framework options for a potential Outback Levy.

**Moved by Member Fort  
Seconded by Member Warmington**

*The OCA:*

- 1. Notes the August 2021 Outback Futures update; and*
- 2. Supports the engagement of a contractor for up to 120 hours work to develop policy framework to support the Outback Futures process.*

Carried.

The meeting was adjourned to welcome the Minister for Planning and Local Government, the Hon Vickie Chapman MP to the Office for the OCA.

Member Johnson returned at this time.

6.13 Finance Report (Ref. N21-13/08)

The Outback Futures Project Manager left the meeting at this point.

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled the Finance Report as at 30 June 2021.

The Director referred to continued measures being implemented to recover outstanding debts.

The OCA noted the Finance Report as at 30 June 2021.

## 7. URGENT BUSINESS

### 7.1 OCA Debt Management Policy

The Director referred to the OCA's Debt Management Policy that had been discussed in a workshop on 18 August. The Policy was due for revision and required an amendment relating to the referral of debts to the Fines Enforcement and Recovery Unit once a final reminder notice has been issued and the debt remains unpaid.

Moved by Member Johnson  
Seconded by Member Wright

*The OCA considered and reviewed the OCA's Debt Management Policy and approved the revised version.*

Carried.

### 7.2 Oodnadatta Health Service

The Director relayed a conversation relating to a review of health services in Oodnadatta that included their ongoing management.

The OCA noted Member Vaughan's conflict of interest in this matter.

Moved by Member Wright  
Seconded by Member Fort

*The OCA write to the Chair of the Eyre and Far North Local Health Network SA Health seeking clarification on the process for appointing the health service provider into Oodnadatta and to request that this process considers the needs of all health service consumers in the Oodnadatta and surrounding community.*

Carried.

## 8. BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled the 2021-22 Business Plan Action Plan.

The Director confirmed some actions remain ongoing due to the Outback Futures Project not being completed yet.

The Members noted the Business Plan Action Plan.

## 9. PRESIDING MEMBERS REPORT

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

- Participating in an ABC radio interview with Angela Coe on 30 June 2021 to discuss the OCA's Outback Futures initiative.
- Attending an economic development forum in Leigh Creek on 15 July 2021 which was convened by RDA FN. On behalf of the OCA a brief welcome address was given to the attendees. Ten or more speakers made presentations, including a DIT representative who reported that the Strzelecki Track upgrade is fully funded and that proposed work will include substantial redevelopment and raising of floodway bases.
- Participating in a phone conference on 19 July 2021 convened by the Chair of the SA Productivity Commission which is enquiring into the factors which could impede development of tourism in the region. Comment was provided on the need for effective management of visitor access impacts, particularly on pastoral lease, this being a key factor in ensuring that opportunities for access are maintained or increased over time.
- Responding to an approach from the Shadow Minister for Local Government, Emily Bourke, who was seeking any input from the OCA on issues in the region. General comment was provided on the fact that in the past the OCA has faced pressures to take on more responsibilities in the region without the resources to manage this. Reasoning behind the Outback Futures initiative was also provided along with the need to establish future outback community needs and how these might be funded in a more equitable way under a reviewed governance model.
- On 10 August 2021, in accordance with existing protocols and due to a very short deadline, responded directly to an approach from RDA FN seeking OCA support for an advertising promotion "Live, Work, Play" which will showcase the outback region in a series of 30 second feature videos produced by Woof Media. A commitment of \$3,500 was given on the OCA's behalf.
- Attending a meeting of the State Bushfire Coordination Committee (SBCC) on 13 August 2021 as the OCA nominee. The meeting agenda included discussion on the recently released South Australia State Bushfire Management Plan 2021-2025, SBCC branding and website design and regional Bushfire Management Committees.

The OCA noted the Presiding Member's report.

## 10. MEMBERS REPORT

Member Vaughan reported the old Marree health clinic has been demolished and the new clinic will be operational by the end of the year.

Member Fort reported she has continued to work on digital content promoting the Aussie Travel Code and that ongoing and constantly changing covid restrictions including border closures are impacting severely on the tourism industry.

Member Frahn reported an issue with Google Maps incorrectly showing bush tracks as an appropriate route to use which caused a traveler to become stuck in a remote area.

Member Warmington reported some road resurfacing and line marking along with new signage at Pink Lake improving access during a time of increased visitation to the region. He also reported that the distribution of communication to Outback Community members is an ongoing issue and is something the OCA needs to consider moving forwards.

Member Wright reported the severe impact of covid not only on business, but also on the mental health of tourism operators.

*The OCA resolved to acknowledge the ongoing impact on the mental health of tourism operators in the region and to bring this to the attention of appropriate Ministers and the Royal Flying Doctor Service to see what support can be provided to the Outback Community.*

## 11. DIRECTORS REPORT

The Director tabled his report referring to the HR recruitment process that is progressing to fill two Community Development Officer positions, one at Port Augusta and one at Leigh Creek, an Assets and Works Officer position at Leigh Creek and a Business Support Officer position in Port Augusta.

OCA staff have been particularly busy with end of financial year auditing and reporting along with new financial year budgets and ongoing project management.

The OCA office closed during the recent state-wide lockdown event with staff able to work from home. There was no interruption to business continuity during this period.

The Director updated the OCA on meetings he had attended including weekly Leigh Creek Task Force Implementation Committee meetings, monthly Leigh Creek Task Force meetings, participating in the ElectraNet Consumer Advisory Panel on 2 August 2021 and attending the SA Productivity Commission review into Tourism Regulation along with the Presiding Member on 19 July 2021.

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

## 12. CORRESPONDENCE REGISTER

The Director tabled the Correspondence Register for the period 23 June to 13 August 2021.

The OCA noted the Correspondence Register.

## 14. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

Nil.

## 15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The OCA noted that the next scheduled meeting will be held on 22, 23 September in Port Augusta followed by a teleconference on 14 October 2021.

The meeting closed at 12.34pm.

*W. J. M. Hutchings* 23 - 9 - 21