



Minutes

Outback Communities Authority

23 September 2021

Meeting No. 104

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

23 September 2021 at 10:39am.

Present:

W McIntosh AM (Presiding Member), J Fort, F Frahn, S Johnson OAM, L Warmington and T Wright. A Vaughan ASM joined the meeting via Microsoft Teams. (OCA Members)
M Sutton (Director, OCA) and J Greatbatch (Executive Officer, OCA).

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Presiding Member welcomed everyone to meeting 104 of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA).

No apologies have been received.

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 19 August 2021 were circulated.

Moved by Member Johnson
Seconded by Member Fort

That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 19 August 2021, meeting number 103 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 a flexible planning process 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 Authorisation Under Treasurer's Instruction 8 – Financial (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.

4.2.5 Regional Development Australia Far North Local Government Nominee (Ref. agenda item 6.11, Meeting No.103)

The Director confirmed a nomination from Member Wright has been submitted to be considered for appointment to the RDA FN Board to one of two local government vacancies. This item can be removed from the action list.

4.2.6 Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program Round 8 – SA Government Co-contribution and MoAA for Leigh Creek and Oodnadatta Aerodromes (Ref. agenda item 6.3, Meeting No.103)

The Director confirmed that the MoAA with the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) for funding towards animal proof fencing at Oodnadatta Aerodrome and the resealing of 2 airstrips at the Leigh Creek Aerodrome was executed by the Presiding Member. This item is to be removed from the action list.

4.2.7 Dog and Cat Management Act Exemptions (Ref. agenda item 6.4, Meeting No.103)

The Director confirmed that renewed exemptions for the OCA from specified provisions of the DCM Act by the Dog and Cat Management Board were received on 2 September 2021. This item can be removed from the action list.

4.2.8 Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 2 – Funding Deed Between the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and the OCA (Ref. agenda item 6.7, Meeting No.103)

The Director confirmed the funding deed between the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and the OCA was executed by the Presiding Member on 19 August 2021. Project funding agreements have also been sent out for the approved projects, therefore this item can be removed from the action list.

4.2.9 OCA Risk Management Register (Ref. agenda item 6.8, Meeting No.103)

The Director confirmed the OCA's Risk Register has been updated to include the Outback Water Stations and the Port Le Hunte Jetty. This item can be removed from the action list.

4.2.10 Re-Establishment of the Building Fire Safety Committee for Outback Areas (Ref. agenda item 6.10, Meeting No.103)

The Director has confirmed OCA participation as a member of the committee with the State Planning Commission therefore this item can be removed from the action list.

4.2.11 Outback Futures Update (Ref. agenda item 6.12, Meeting No.103)

The Director confirmed Michele Bennetts has been engaged as a contractor for up to 120 hours work to develop policy framework to support the Outback Futures process. This item can be removed from the action list.

4.2.12 OCA Debt Management Policy (Ref. agenda item 7.1, Meeting No.103)

The Director confirmed the revised OCA Debt Management Policy has been uploaded to the OCA's website, therefore this matter can be removed from the action list.

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

The Director advised that correspondence is yet to be sent to the Chair of Eyre and Far North Local Health Network SA Health regarding the Oodnadatta health service, therefore this matter is pending.

4.2.14 Members Reports (Ref. agenda item 10, Meeting No. 103)

The Director advised that correspondence is yet to be sent to the Royal Flying Doctor Service and appropriate Ministers seeking increased mental health support for tourism operators in Outback SA, therefore this matter is pending.

5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

6. OCA BUSINESS

6.1 Authorisations Under Treasurer's Instruction 8 – Updated Financial Authorisations for the financial year 2021-22 (Ref. N21-01/09)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled a proposed schedule of financial delegations for 2021-22 that has been reviewed due to personnel changes.

**Moved by Member Johnson
Seconded by Member Fort**

That the OCA approve the updated financial delegations conferred on the Office for the OCA assigned to assist the OCA by the Attorney General's Department for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

Carried.

6.2 Outback Futures Update (Ref. N21-02/09)

The Presiding Member referred to a draft 'blue print' being developed by the Outback Futures Project Manager and an associated action plan which will be consulted on during the in community Outback Futures sessions in October.

The OCA noted the September 2021 Outback Futures Project update.

6.3 Dog and Cat Management Act Exemptions - Response (Ref. N21-03/09)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled an approved exemption for the OCA from specified provisions of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*. The exemption was approved by the Dog and Cat Management Board at their meeting on 24 August 2021 which will last for a period of five years.

The OCA noted the exemption from the Dog and Cat Management Board as approved.

6.4 Re-establishment of Building Fire Safety Committee for Outback Areas - Response (Ref. N21-04/09)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled correspondence received from the State Planning Commission which advised that the OCA's Director has been appointed to the Building Fire Safety Committee for a term of three years commencing 1 October 2021.

Information on the Building Fire Safety Committee will be provided on the OCA website.

The OCA noted the appointment of the OCA's Director to the Building Fire Safety Committee for the Outback Areas.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

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 are 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:

- Attended a Pastoral Strategic Business Review workshop at Hawker on 30 August 2021, at the invitation of conveners Rural Business Support (RBS). This project has been funded from the Community Benefit Program associated with the now defunct low/medium radioactive waste storage facility proposal near Hawker. As the OCA is an "applicant" in this project, the Presiding Member provided a welcome on behalf of the Board. The workshop was well attended and is aimed at providing medium term business reviews to up to 20 pastoral businesses near and to the north of Hawker, as they emerge and recover from recent drought.
- Also on 30 August 2021 attended at Hawker an information forum on Carbon Farming which was convened by the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board. The session outlined the growing opportunity that carbon farming (and other associated schemes) represent as a form of diversification in the rangelands.
- 31 August 2021 participated in an ABC radio interview with presenter Spence Denny regarding the Outback Futures project and the community forum to be held at Coober Pedy.
- On the weekend from 3-5 September 2021 attended along with other OCA Board Members and staff, the Outback Futures consultation forum at Coober Pedy. The Presiding Member believes this forum was a very successful event where community

leaders were able to discuss important issues and their views about the future sustainability of the region.

The Presiding Member acknowledged the recent sad passing of long term member of the Blinman community, Lesley Slade. Over several decades Lesley was a tireless and enthusiastic supporter of the Blinman community and held some form of office or responsibility within the Blinman Progress Association on a virtually continuous basis. Her contribution has been second to none and epitomizes the Outback volunteer spirit.

The OCA noted the Presiding Member's report.

10. MEMBERS REPORT

Member Fort reported she attended a Flinders Ranges & Outback Inc (FRO) meeting in Port Augusta on 22 September 2021 as well as the Outback Futures forum at Coober Pedy. She reported that border closures continue to impact the tourism industry, and there are concerns about what the further impact will be on the mental health of tourism operators and also on infrastructure when borders open again.

Member Wright reported roads continue to be an issue in the Far North as is the supply of potable water at Marla and Oodnadatta. There are also currently internet issues with greatly reduced upload and download speeds and would like the OCA to continue to advocate for better telecommunications across Outback SA. Member Wright also attended the Outback Futures forum in Coober Pedy.

Member Vaughan reported the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) is continuing to roll out COVID vaccines. A new pre-fabricated clinic for Marree is almost finished being built and will soon be transported to Marree, a building solution that may be beneficial for other Outback communities. Member Vaughan also attended the Outback Futures forum in Coober Pedy.

Member Warmington reported some road upgrades have been undertaken in the Penong region which have been generally well received, however further infrastructure upgrades are required to cope with the impact of increased regional visitation.

11. DIRECTORS REPORT

The Director tabled his report for the period leading up to the September meeting referring to the recruitment process for Leigh Creek now being complete with a new Community Development Officer and Assets and Works Officer to commence in their respective roles in early October. The Outback Futures Community Development Officer has also been appointed and will commence in the last week of September. Recruitment for the Business Support Officer position remains ongoing.

Much of the Director's focus has been on the Outback Futures project progression including attending the community forum held at Coober Pedy in early September which was a great opportunity for Outback community members from across the region to meet and build relationships. The Director acknowledged the time and effort from all OCA staff to ensure the event ran as smoothly as it did.

The Director updated the OCA on meetings he had been involved with during the previous month including participating on an ElectraNet Consumer Advisory Panel on 30 August

2021, attending a Far North ZEMC meeting on 2 September 2021 and contributing to a tourism round-table with the SA Productivity Commission on 30 August 2021.

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

12. CORRESPONDENCE REGISTER

The Director tabled the Correspondence Register for the period 13 August to 7 September 2021.

The OCA noted the Correspondence Register.

13. CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS

Nil.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The OCA noted that the next scheduled meeting will be a teleconference on 14 October 2021 followed by a meeting held on 10, 11 November in Port Augusta.

The meeting closed at 11:51am.

W. M. ...
11-11-21