



# Minutes

## Outback Communities Authority

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24 February 2022

Meeting No. 108

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

24 February 2022 at 11:50 am.

Present:

W McIntosh AM (Presiding Member), F Frahn, A Vaughan ASM,  
L Warmington and T Wright (OCA Members).  
M Sutton (Director, OCA) and J Greatbatch (Executive Officer, OCA).

### 1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Presiding Member welcomed everyone to meeting 108 of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA).

An apology has been received from Member Fort and Member Johnson.

### 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 9 December 2021 were circulated.

Moved by Member Vaughan  
Seconded by Member Warrington

*That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) meeting held on 9 December 2021, meeting number 106 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 14-15 December 2021 were circulated.

Moved by Member Frahn  
Seconded by Member Wright

*That the minutes of the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) electronic meeting held 14-15 December 2021, meeting number 107 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 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.

4.3.2 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 Project, therefore this matter is pending.

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

The Presiding Member has addressed the impact of increased regional tourism in correspondence to the Minister for Planning and Local Government following submission of the Outback Futures Report. This matter can be removed from the action list.

4.3.4 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.

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

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

4.3.6 Mental Health Support for Outback Tourism Operators (Ref. agenda item 10, Meeting No.103)

The Director confirmed correspondence is yet to be forwarded to the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) and appropriate Ministers seeking mental health support services for tourism operators in Outback SA, therefore this matter is pending.

4.3.7 Outback Futures Project Update (Ref. agenda item 6.1, Meeting No. 106)

The Director confirmed the Outback Futures Report was finalised and presented to the Minister on 21 December 2021 therefore this matter can be removed from the action list.

4.3.8 Director's Report (Ref. agenda item 11, Meeting No. 106)

The Director confirmed the OCA's recognition, appreciation and thanks has been passed on to Mark Shirley as he transitions to retirement therefore this matter can be removed from the action list.

5. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Nil.

6. OCA BUSINESS

6.1 Contract Agreement for Replacement of the Oodnadatta Public Conveniences (Ref. N22-01/02)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled a proposed contract for replacing the Oodnadatta public toilets, a project that was allocated approved grant funding under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program. A Request for Quote process for the demolition and building works was undertaken with Furnell Plumbing submitting the winning tender. As the contract value is over the delegated authority of both the Presiding Member and the Director, the agreement is referred to the OCA for execution.

Moved by Member Vaughan  
Seconded by Member Frahn

*The OCA execute the Agreement with Furnell Plumbing for the replacement of the Oodnadatta public conveniences to the value of \$141,280.*

Carried.

6.2 Travel Authorisation Update for Intrastate Travel 2021-22 (Ref. N22-02/02)

The Director tabled updated 2021-22 intrastate travel authorisations which have been amended to allow the Team Leader Community Services to approve intrastate travel for the remainder of the 2021-22 financial year.

Moved by Member Vaughan  
Seconded by Member Frahn

*The OCA approve intrastate travel delegation for the Team Leader Community Services for the 2021-22 financial year.*

Carried.

6.3 Community Development Team Update (Ref. N22-03/02)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who provided a report on the goals, function and operations of the Community Development Team which comprises three Community Development Officers, the Asset and Works Officer and the Team Leader Community Services.

Moved by Member Warmington  
Seconded by Member Wright

*The OCA endorses the goals, function and operations of the Community Development Team.*

Carried.

6.4 Regional Development Australia Far North Quarterly Report to December 2021  
(Ref. N22-04/02)

The Presiding Member tabled the Regional Development Australia Far North (RDA FN) Quarterly Report to 31 December 2021 which included a reference to the launch of the Live, Work, Play campaign on 20 January 2022 with the OCA's piece to be promoted in February 2022.

The OCA noted the 1 October to 31 December 2021 RDA FN Quarterly Report.

6.5 Finance Report (Ref. N22-05/02)

The Presiding Member referred discussion to the Director who tabled the finance report as at 31 January 2022.

The OCA noted the finance report as at 31 January 2022.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

The OCA has received a request from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to assist with the licenced disposal of asbestos at Andamooka.

The OCA requested formal correspondence from the EPA providing more information on what they are asking the OCA to do and to provide background information on what has been done to resolve the issue to date, confirming that all other avenues have been fully exhausted.

The OCA acknowledged waste management in the Outback is a high priority issue, however the OCA is not resourced or empowered to resolve the issue but is able to provide support to the EPA for the identification of a region wide solution for historic and dangerous waste across the Outback.

The Director will draft a letter to the EPA for the Board's approval.

## 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, however the Community Development Team (CDT) has commenced pre-planning for identifying five new initiatives that create sustainable economic development in the region. The CDT will also work in partnership with communities to support the development of community based strategic and community development planning.

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:

- On 23 December 2021 receiving correspondence from the Chair of the SA Pastoral Board, David Larkin, seeking clarification on benefits pastoral lessees are likely to receive from an outback levy payment. It is suggested that this letter be acknowledged with an offer to take part in discussions with the Pastoral Board about the range of issues, including opportunities within the levy proposal and management of visitor access in the outback.
- In early February, liaising with the Director receiving reports of his full involvement in the State's emergency response after the extraordinary flood event in the region. The Presiding Member commended the Director, and staff involved, on the exemplary effort in representing the region's needs through this event. He was completely satisfied that the OCA's responsibilities were well covered through these efforts.
- On 10 February 2022 attending the opening of the new RFDS clinic at Marree. This is an excellent facility which will have lasting health and other benefits to the Marree community and a large area surrounding that centre.
- On 14 February 2022 receiving a phone call (and subsequent official letter on 16 February 2022) from the Minister for Planning and Local Government the Hon. Josh Teague MP in response to the OCA's Outback Futures recommendations. The Presiding Member is pleased to report that, from advice in this communication, the government has committed to the principle of a shared responsibility model for the outback, recognized the need for the OCA to receive additional support to provide

services that are critical to the safety and amenity of visitors to the outback and also recognized that there is a role for government in supporting or matching funds raised by outback residents in levy payments.

- On behalf of the Board, the Presiding Member recognized the long period of service to the OCA by Community Development Officer, Mark Shirley who is now transitioning to retirement. Sincere thanks go to Mark for his great work with the communities and the OCA wish him all the best in retirement.

The OCA noted the Presiding Member's report.

## 10. MEMBERS REPORT

Member Frahn reported that while a large portion of region received rain recently, there are still properties that missed out on the rainfall. It is important for the OCA not to dismiss this but instead continue to advocate for those who are still struggling with drought conditions.

Member Wright reported the condition of Outback roads continues to be an ongoing issue.

Member Warmington reported the Penong Progress Association has been approached to host a High Frequency (HF) radio base station to improve on traveler safety systems in remote Australia.

## 11. DIRECTORS REPORT

The Director tabled his report for the period leading up to the February meeting which included participating in daily meetings for a remote communities Zone Emergency Support Team (ZEST) established by SA Police (SAPOL) as part of the State's emergency management structure to address the Omicron Covid-19 variant situation. Whilst this has meant a large amount of time has been dedicated to these meetings, a positive result was that with support from Health SA, SAPOL and the Royal Flying Doctor Service, just over 3,000 rapid antigen test (RAT) kits were distributed across the region.

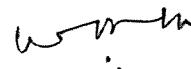
The Director was also activated in the State's emergency response to the severe rainfall event that occurred in late January/early February. This was also a high level of commitment however it was important for the OCA to be at the table for these discussions and secure outcomes for road openings, PAR planning and improvements, mosquito control measures in all affected communities and support for isolated residents.

The Director tabled a list of activities undertaken since the December 2021 meeting.

## 12. CORRESPONDENCE REGISTER

The Director tabled the Correspondence Register for the period 7 December 2021 to 17 February 2022.

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 scheduled for 22, 23 March at Port Augusta followed by a meeting on 4, 5 May 2022, location to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 1.15 pm.

*W. M. Melton*

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23-3-22