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Outback
Communities
Authority

OUTBACK COMMUNITIES AUTHORITY NOMINATION FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION SHEET

Background

Almost two-thirds of South Australia's geographic area (or 655,000 square kilometres) is located outside of local government areas. In 2007, the State government conducted a review of the governance arrangements of the outback that resulted in an Act of Parliament being enacted: the *Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009* (the Act) which establishes the Outback Communities Authority. The Act and its regulations can be downloaded at www.legislation.sa.gov.au.

The responsibility for the delivery of certain local government services and activities for local communities in these areas (except those on defined Aboriginal lands) falls to the OCA, which serves about 3,000 people residing in numerous small communities, service locations and pastoral/farming properties in the outback.

Functions of the Authority

The functions of the OCA are to manage the provision of, and promote improvements in, public services and facilities for outback communities and articulate the views, interests and aspirations of these communities.

The Act requires the OCA to involve communities in decision-making and in setting long term strategic directions, its annual business plan and budget, and important matters such as the development of a community contribution before they become part of its work.

The Act also enables the OCA to create opportunities to provide improved infrastructure and services in the outback through better cost sharing mechanisms in the form of an asset sustainability levy and community contributions.

The OCA is subject to the general control and direction of the Minister for Local Government.

The objects of the legislation and the functions and objectives of the OCA are set out in Appendix A. More immediate questions on the OCA's membership are dealt with in the following FAQ section.

FAQs:

How are the members appointed? What is the term of each appointment?

The OCA consists of 7 members who are appointed by the Governor for a term not exceeding 3 years, one of whom will be appointed as the presiding member.

Members are appointed for a term enabling membership to be staggered thereby mitigating the likelihood of wholesale changes to the OCA. All members will be eligible for re-appointment after expiry of their term.

Who can nominate for membership?

The Act requires that at least 4 members will be from different outback communities.

Nominations are open to any person living in the outback or who has interest in supporting and progressing the development of outback communities. While skills or experience in disciplines such as strategic planning, financial management, community governance, community engagement, business or law would be advantageous, a commitment to community service in the outback is equally important.

How often will the OCA meet, and where?

The OCA is expected to meet on at least a bi-monthly basis and meetings will run between two and three hours, however the meetings are generally held over two days commencing at lunch time on day one and finishing at lunch time on day two; this allows time to deal with matters such as strategic management planning, asset and financial management planning, sub-committee meetings and workshops.

Meetings will generally be held in Port Augusta, however there will be occasions for them to be held in Adelaide or in townships and settlements throughout the outback. This may necessitate overnight stays.

How are the OCA's operations supported?

The OCA will be supported by a small administrative team based in Port Augusta; members of that team are employed by the Department of Infrastructure and Transport.

The OCA operates within an annual budget of approximately \$4 million which is funded by a State Government appropriation, a Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grant, and other revenue derived from bank interest and other business activities.

Will members be remunerated for their services?

The Chair and members are entitled to receive an annual remuneration for their services.

Reimbursement for travel and accommodation expenses will be made to the Chair and members in accordance with Commissioner for Public Employment's Standard 3.2.

How can I make a nomination?

Nominations must be made in writing and include the following information:

- Your personal details (full name, postal address, contact details - home, work, mobile, email)
- Details of current/past board or committee membership (including length of term and positions held)
- Current or recent community experience
- Relevant work experience/education/training
- Interests

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Nominations should be addressed to:

“Outback Communities Authority - Nomination for Membership”

PO Box 3326

Port Augusta West SA 5700

or email to oca@sa.gov.au

Further information on the nomination can be obtained from Mr Mark Sutton, Director Office for the OCA – telephone 0427 001 969 or 1800 640 542 (freecall).

Closing Date

The closing date for nominations is Friday 27 May 2022.

Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009
Objects, Functions and Objectives

Objects of the Act (s4)

The objects of the Act are—

- (a) to provide for efficient and accountable administration and management of outback communities; and
- (b) to promote participation of outback communities in their administration and management; and
- (c) to raise revenue for public services and facilities in the outback.

Functions and objectives of the Authority (s6)

The functions of the Authority are—

- (a) to manage the provision of public services and facilities to outback communities; and
- (b) to promote improvements in the provision of public services and facilities to outback communities; and
- (c) to articulate the views, interests and aspirations of outback communities.

In performing its functions, the Authority is—

- (a) primarily to foster and support the provision of public services and facilities to outback communities by community organisations, including by making grants and loans to such organisations; and
- (b) to consider long-term requirements for maintenance, replacement and development of infrastructure for public services and facilities for outback communities; and
- (c) to consider State and national objectives and strategies that are relevant to outback communities; and
- (d) to seek ongoing collaboration with local, State and national governments in the planning and delivery of public services and facilities to outback communities; and
- (e) to ensure that there are systems in place to further its understanding of the views, interests and aspirations of outback communities; and
- (f) to facilitate decision making by others on a basis that is well informed in relation to the views, interests and aspirations of outback communities, including by participating in appropriate local, State and national forums; and
- (g) to provide services with a high level of efficiency and effectiveness, manage resources effectively, prudently and in a fully accountable manner and maintain and enhance the value of public assets.