

TCA General Meeting Minutes

[CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT]

Date: 11th June 2025

Location: Witchetty's, Araluen Arts Centre

The CHAIR opened the meeting at 18:00

1. Welcome and Apologies

The CHAIR welcomed everyone and acknowledged the Traditional Owners.

Apologies were received and recorded. Kyle Pearson was an apology from the floor

2. Confirmation of the Minutes from the previous General Meeting 24th Feb 2025

Minutes were circulated to members via email. NIL changes
Minutes held to be true and correct subject to changes noted.

MOTION: That the minutes from the 24th Feb 2025 General Meeting be accepted as true and correct.

Moved: Steve Shearer

Seconded: Michelle Pettit

CARRIED

3. Guest Speaker – Marion Scrymgour MP

Marion acknowledged the traditional owners of the land and welcomed Matt Paterson (ASTC Mayor) and Sid Vashist (Barkly region Mayor).

Marion expressed sincere appreciation for the work of the CHAIR and the CEO in the lead up to the last federal election. They were key in securing the funding for Central Australian Tourism.

Marion formally announced to the meeting, the distribution of the \$8.5m in government funding that was promised in the election. This includes \$5m over two years for TCA to increase marketing efforts, \$2.5m for TCA in collaboration with AUSTRADE and \$1m for the resilience fund to assist struggling businesses.

Marion also announced the Federal Government's "bold and brave" agenda which includes plans for industry and regional growth and development, building resources and collaboration on all levels from Federal Government to industry.

TCA will be facilitating talks with all stakeholders on the National Gallery project for Alice Springs and the aim is develop a world class attraction that will be the "Centrepiece" for Central Australian tourism.

4. Chairs Update

The CHAIR provided an updated to the members on the process of some current projects including the VIC relocation. TCA are going to be continuing to advocate for the development of the Mereenie Loop road and the ATSIAGA project. These programs are expected to increase industry confidence and investment in the region.

5. Finance Report

The CHAIR spoke to the financial position of TCA as at April 2025. There is a small surplus expected at 30 June 2025. Expenditures are being tightly controlled in line with the budgeted forecasts. The team has successfully acquitted the 25% Voucher grants and awarded a \$30,000 grant which will support the team to attend additional trade shows in the coming years and currently undergoing renewal of many of the organisation's insurance policies.

MOTION: That the CHAIR report and financial report be accepted as a true and accurate record

Moved: Sid Vashist

Seconded: Michelle Pettit

CARRIED

6. Guest Speaker – Mel Forbes – GM Outback Way Highway Development Group

Mel Forbes is the General Manager for the Outback Way Development Group. Mel spoke to the progress of the project, set-backs and expectations of the project. The group have been working on increasing advertising and social media presence over the past few months and encouraging community and stakeholder input into the project via an online interactive map.

They are participating in the OBW forum in Canberra to connect Government and industry to discuss progress and plan for future success.

Mel gave an overview of the expectations for Tourism in Central Australia in the coming years with the Solar Eclipse (2028) and the Olympics (2032) and what we can expect in the industry as a flow-on from these and other events.

REX NEINDORF: Enquired into what were the delays in the building of the road.

STEVE SHEARER: Commented on the lack of infrastructure to support the industry in both regional and remote areas.

LYNDEE SEVERIN: Commented on the safety considerations and possible impact of increased travellers on the road.

SID VASHIST: Intimated that the Barkly is working on boosting infrastructure to support increased tourism

7. CEO's Operational Report

The CEO discussed the start of the tourist season, provided a progress update on the current projects and expressed thanks to the TCA Team and Emma Wilmot for keeping things running while he was on leave. Bookings have remained strong and with the upcoming events on the Alice Springs Calendar we are optimistic for a good season.

The additional Government funding should go a long way in helping to support the region and Thanks to Marion Scrymgour and TNT for their support.

8. Guest Speaker – Rachel Telford – New head of TNT

Rachel spoke about her history with the region and her passion for Central Australia. She is putting that passion into her work with TNT and is excited for the projects that have already started and those scheduled for the future, including:

9. mNew Members

1. Dream Media
2. Walk Darwin
3. Airnorth
4. All About Party Hire
5. Crocodylus Park
6. Davidson's Arnhemland Safari Lodge
7. North Horizon Heli Adventures
8. Darwin Harbour Cruises

10. General Business

1. Steve Shearer spoke to the condition of the Gahn Heritage track, and the required restoration works on this track.
2. Michelle Pettit announced the 2025 Old Timers Fete and requested volunteers and community support.
3. The CHAIR expressed TCA's gratitude to Mayor Matt Paterson for his service and hard work over the years

11. Meeting Close

The meeting was closed at 7:32pm with no further business.

Attending in Person

Name	Company	Name	Company
Amee Dennis	Curtin Springs	Anasmon Cheeran Kulangara	Evora Care
Anna Dakin	Art Tours of Australia	Bill Sankey	Dept of Trade, Business & Asian Relations
Chrissy Gorey	Tourism NT	Craig Jervis	Lasseters
Deb Moyle	Insight Group Global	Dhiraj Simkhada	ISACNT
Emma Fraser	Tourism NT	Gayle shearer	Lasseters

Holly Wyatt	Alice Springs Desert Park	Ian Solomon	Mercure Alice Springs Resort
Jill Catchlove	Tourism NT	Karen Eva-Stirk	Womens Museum of Australia
Lyndee Severin	Curtin Springs	Margaret Cain	A Good Rest B & B
Marion Scrymgour	MP	Mark Elliot	Collab Forge
Mark Stoyles	Tourism Australia	Matt Paterson	Alice Springs Town Council
Matt Adams-Richardson	Electorate Officer	Megan Aston	Charles Darwin University
Mel Forbes	Outback Highway Development Council	Michelle Pettit	Hello Alice
Nicholas Bitar	Outback Cycling	Nick Ruch	Tourism NT
Patrick Bedford	Emu Run	Rachel Telford	Tourism NT
Rex Neindorf	Alice Springs Reptile Centre	Shazin	Evora Care
Sid Vashist	Mayor - Barkly Town Council	Stacie Bodnar	NT Business Events
Stephanie King	visitor centre volunteer	Stephen Jarrett	Tanya Heaslip
Steve Shearer	Life member	The Hon. Joshua Burgoyne MLA	Office of the Chief Minister
Trish Cave	Collab Forge		

Attending online

Alex Dye	Uluru Segway Tours	Andrea Jewell	Tourism NT
Andrea Lehman	Outback Ballooning Australia Pty Ltd	Angus M Robinson	Leisure Solutions®
Bek Garrett	Royal Flying Doctor Service SA/NT	Ben Hall	AAT Kings
Caitlin Sewell	Autopia Tours	Kellie Murphy	Get Lost Travel - Autopia Tours

Apologies

Dale McIver	Life Member	Grant Whan	Business Enterprise Centre NT
Kyle Pearson	Alice Springs Brewery	Lyndal Connell	Nature of Alice
Pamela Duncan	Memory Mountain Limited	Reg Remsden	Remote TOurs
Shona Harris	Cavenagh Lodge	-	