



# GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items

## Unconfirmed Minutes

Friday 23 June 2023  
Zoom Videoconference, commencing at 8.30am

## CONTENTS

<b>1.</b>	<b>OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>RECORD OF ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE</b> .....	<b>3</b>
	3.1 Attendance .....	3
	3.2 Apologies.....	3
	3.3 Guests .....	4
	3.4 WALGA Representatives .....	4
	3.5 DLGSC Representatives .....	4
<b>4.</b>	<b>MINUTES OF MEETINGS</b> .....	<b>4</b>
	4.1 Minutes of a Meeting of GVROC to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items held 21 April 2023 .....	4
	4.2 Action Sheet Report .....	4
<b>5.</b>	<b>DLGSC REPORT</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>EMERGING ITEMS</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Decision</b> .....	<b>6</b>
	7.1 Review of Urban Forest Advocacy Position .....	6
	7.2 State Planning Policy 3.7 Bushfire and the Planning for Bushfire Guidelines .....	9
	7.3 Reforming WA Disability Legislation Submission.....	11
	7.4 Landfill Bans Advocacy Position .....	13
	7.5 Audit Experience Survey Results Summary and Advocacy Position .....	15
	7.6 Amendments to WALGA’s Constitution.....	19
<b>8.</b>	<b>Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Noting/Information</b> .....	<b>24</b>
	8.1 Flying Minute – Submission to 2023 State Wage Case .....	24
	8.2 Environmental Protection Amendment Regulations 2022: Consultation Response	28
	8.3 Local Government Performance Monitoring Project .....	30
	8.4 Street Lighting Tariffs .....	32
	8.5 2023-24 Federal and State Budgets .....	34
	8.6 Update on the Commencement of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021.....	37
	8.7 State Award Variations Impacting on Local Governments.....	41
	8.8 Review of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007: Stage 3 Review	44
<b>9.</b>	<b>Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Policy Team Reports</b> .....	<b>46</b>
	9.1 Environment and Waste Policy Team Report .....	46
	9.2 Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team Report .....	47
	9.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report.....	48
	9.4 People and Place Policy Team Report.....	49
	9.5 Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report .....	50
<b>10.</b>	<b>Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Organisational Key Activity Reports</b> .....	<b>52</b>
	10.1 Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio .....	52
	10.2 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio.....	52
	10.3 Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio .....	52
	10.4 Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio .....	52
<b>11.</b>	<b>Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Policy Forums and Other Reports</b> .....	<b>52</b>
	11.1 President’s Report .....	52
	11.2 CEO’s Report .....	52
	11.3 Ex Officio Reports.....	52
<b>12.</b>	<b>Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – State Council Status Report</b> .....	<b>53</b>
	12.1 Complete Status Report on State Council Resolutions - To the July 2023 State Council Meeting.....	53
<b>13.</b>	<b>LATE ITEMS as notified, introduced by decision of the Meeting</b> .....	<b>54</b>
<b>14.</b>	<b>FUTURE MEETINGS</b> .....	<b>54</b>
<b>15.</b>	<b>CLOSURE OF MEETING</b> .....	<b>54</b>

# GOLDFIELDS VOLUNTARY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (GVROC)

Videoconference meeting of the GVROC Council to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items was held Friday 23 June 2023 at 8.30am

## AGENDA

### 1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The purpose of the meeting is to provide advice to the WALGA State Council Representative, Cr Laurene Bonza on the Agenda for the WALGA State Council Meetings to be held on 5 July 2023.

### 2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Pursuant to the Code of Conduct, Councillors and CEOs must declare to the Chairman any potential conflict of interest they may have in a matter before the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils as soon as they become aware of it. Councillors, CEOs and Deputies may be directly or indirectly associated with some recommendations of the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils. If you are affected by these recommendations, please excuse yourself from the meeting and do not participate in deliberations.

### 3. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

#### 3.1 Attendance

Cr Mal Cullen (Chair)	President, Shire of Coolgardie
Cr Tracey Rathbone	Councillor, Shire of Coolgardie
Cr Laurene Bonza	President, Shire of Dundas
Mr Peter Fitchat	CEO, Shire of Dundas
Cr Ian Mickel	President Shire of Esperance
Mr Shane Burge	CEO, Shire of Esperance
Cr Ron Chambers	Councillor, Shire of Esperance
Mr Jim Epis	CEO, Shire of Leonora
Cr Peter Grundy	President, Shire of Wiluna
Mr Andrew Mann	Executive Officer, GVROC
Mr Kevin Hannagan	CEO, Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku

#### 3.2 Apologies

Mr James Trail	CEO, Shire of Coolgardie
Cr John Bowler	Mayor, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Cr Kim Eckert	Councillor, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Mr Andrew Brien	CEO, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Cr Sharon Warner	Councillor, Shire of Dundas
Cr Robert Wedge	Councillor, Shire of Laverton
Cr Patrick Hill	President, Shire of Laverton
Mr Phil Marshall	A/CEO, Shire of Laverton
Cr Peter Craig	President, Shire of Leonora
Cr Paul Warner	Councillor, Shire of Menzies
Cr Jill Dwyer	Councillor, Shire of Menzies
Mr Rob Stewart	A/CEO, Shire of Menzies
Cr Damian McLean	President, Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku
Mr David Mosel	Incoming CEO, Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku
Cr Timothy Carmody	Councillor, Shire of Wiluna
Mr Gary Gaffney	CEO, Shire of Wiluna

**3.3 Guests**

Nil

**3.4 WALGA Representatives**

**Willem Bouwer** Governance Specialist  
**Delaney McQuoid** Policy Officer Emergency Management

**3.5 DLGSC Representatives**

Nil – see DLGSC report (**Attachment 3**)

<b>4. MINUTES OF MEETINGS</b>
-------------------------------

**4.1 Minutes of a Meeting of GVROC to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items held 21 April 2023**

Minutes of the GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council held Friday 21 April 2023 are presented for adoption (**Attachment 1**).

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council held Friday 21 April 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

**RESOLUTION:** **Moved: Cr Ian Mickel, Shire of Esperance**  
**Seconded: Mr Jim Epis, Shire of Leonora**

---

**Carried**

**4.2 Action Sheet Report**

An update on the actions based on the resolutions from the meeting held on 21 April 2023 meeting are presented for noting (**Attachment 2**).

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Action Sheet Report as listed for noting be received.

**RESOLUTION:** **Moved: Cr Peter Grundy, Shire of Wiluna**  
**Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie**

---

**Carried**

## 5. DLGSC REPORT

**From:** Department Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC)

**Attachment:** DLGSC report – May 2023 – WALGA Zone meetings (**Attachment 3**)

**Background:**

DLGSC have provided its May 2023 report for consideration at all WALGA Zone meetings as per the **Attachment 3**.

**Comment:**

DLGSC have requested that if WALGA zones have any questions on the report, WALGA will note these at the meetings and send them to the DLGSC for a response. The DLGSC will then provide answers to these questions and circulate them back to WALGA for advice back to the WALGA zones. For individual queries from zone members, a list of DLGSC contacts is contained in the report.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The GVROC notes the DLGSC report May 2023 as presented.

**RESOLUTION:**                    **Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie**  
   **Seconded: Cr Peter Grundy, Shire of Wiluna**

---

Carried

## 6. EMERGING ITEMS

**From:** Chair GVROC

**Background:**

WALGA State Council meets five times each year and as part of the consultation process with Member Councils circulates the State Council Agenda for input through the Zone structure. The Zone can provide comment or submit an alternate recommendation that is then presented to the State Council for consideration.

A full copy of the State Council Agenda for the meeting on 5 July 2023 can be found at **Attachment 4**.

Notification of emerging items must be provided to the Chair no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting.

## **7. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Decision**

### **7.1 Review of Urban Forest Advocacy Position**

#### **WALGA Recommendation**

That WALGA endorse a new Advocacy Position 4.6 Urban Forest as follows:

*To promote the growth of Western Australia's urban forest the State Government should:*

- 1. Identify a lead agency with responsibility for setting the strategic direction and oversight of urban forest initiatives.**
- 2. In consultation with Local Government:**
  - a. Develop an Urban Forest Strategy, based on the overarching principles of a resilient, connected, expanded and equitable urban forest including:**
    - i. an overall tree canopy target for the Perth and Peel regions,**
    - ii. robust and contemporary data to inform decision making,**
    - iii. funding mechanisms to support growth in urban canopy.**
  - b. Develop contemporary legislative and policy mechanisms to enable the protection and growth of urban forest, including:**
    - i. an effective and efficient regulatory mechanism that allows Local Government to consider the removal or alteration of a significant tree as a form of development.**
    - ii. prioritisation of trees and vegetation as a key structural element in the design of new neighbourhoods to facilitate climate resilient and liveable communities.**
    - iii. consideration of public realm design to maximise opportunities for tree retention and new planting consistent with any tree canopy targets.**
- 3. Work with Local Government and other stakeholders to increase community awareness and promote behaviour change in relation to urban forest growth and retention to support State and Local Government targets and action.**
- 4. Provide recurrent funding for a comprehensive and accessible Urban Greening Grant program to support Local Government investment in public realm planting, focusing on high urban heat areas and enhancing biodiversity outcomes.**

#### **IN BRIEF:**

- It is proposed that the 2017 Advocacy Position 4.6 Urban Forestry be replaced with a new position that reflects Local Governments' urban forest advocacy priorities.
- The new position has been prepared in collaboration with the officers of the Local Government Urban Forest Working Group and has been endorsed by both the People and Place Policy Team and Environment and Waste Policy Team at a special joint meeting on 31 May 2023.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- [Issues Paper: Local Government Approaches to Tree Retention](#)
- [New Urban Forest Advocacy Position](#)

#### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

WALGA's existing [Advocacy Position](#):

##### **4.6 Urban Forestry**

*Local Government supports advocacy and work to further prevent the loss of urban tree canopy, including the Association's collaboration with the State Government and consultation with Local Government, to develop policies to support Local Governments' efforts to maintain and grow tree canopy cover.*

The proposed new Urban Forest Advocacy Position is attached.

#### **Background**

Trees and other vegetation in urban areas provide significant social, economic, and environmental benefits to the community. The retention and growth of a healthy, resilient and diverse urban canopy is a shared responsibility across State and Local Governments, landholders, industry and the community.

In most urban areas across Western Australia there has been a decline in canopy cover, particularly on private land. This loss of cover is a significant issue for Local Governments and impacts local biodiversity, visual amenity, urban heat and public health.

State and Local Governments have in recent years made policy and regulatory changes to retain trees in response to declining canopy cover on private land. The [‘Better Urban Forest Planning’](#) guide released in collaboration with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, the Western Australian Planning Commission and WALGA in 2018 outlined the scope of the issue and controls available to Local Governments to mitigate canopy tree loss. Since that time, the loss of canopy trees has continued and both State and Local Governments have introduced measures to preserve and enhance urban canopy, including on private land.

These changes to Western Australia’s planning framework recognise that retaining trees on private land is a priority for retaining and growing urban canopy. However, in almost all circumstances development approval is not currently required for the removal of canopy trees, and therefore land can be cleared prior to lodging a development application.

In this context, many Local Governments in Western Australia have implemented measures to retain existing trees on private land and enable future canopy growth. Currently a patchwork of approaches towards tree retention are used such as local planning policies and local planning scheme provisions which require the planting of replacement trees where established ‘significant’ trees are removed during development.

WALGA has completed a significant body of policy and advocacy work to support Local Governments with their urban forest planning and management, including:

- The ‘Better Urban Forest Planning’ guide (2018);
- Coordination of the Local Government Urban Forest Working Group (31 Local Governments);
- Issues Paper: Local Government Approaches to Tree Retention (2022); and
- The Urban Forest Conferences in 2021 and 2023.

Several key advocacy priorities have been identified through this work:

- The need for more considered and coordinated management of this issue by the State Government. There is no coordinated response to the loss of canopy trees nor lead agency to manage the issue across Government. Experience in other Australian jurisdictions, such as New South Wales, highlights the benefit of coordination across State agencies. The need for a lead agency and State Urban Forest Strategy was identified by Infrastructure WA in their State Infrastructure Strategy which was supported by WALGA in our submission.
- Perth currently has the lowest canopy cover of all major Australian cities, currently 22 urban Local Governments have committed to canopy targets between generally 20-30% canopy cover. This is consistent with other State’s targets for their urban areas. As shown in other jurisdictions setting a City-wide target facilitates between coordination between State and Local Government, and would help bring the State in line with Local Government targets.
- There is a need for continued engagement and education to increase community awareness of the issues associated with canopy tree loss and the benefits of retention of vegetation. Local Governments are currently undertaking this work in response to the recommendations of their respective Urban Forest Strategies. There is a no guidance and messaging from State Government on this issue.
- That the current state planning system is lacking in guidance, policy mechanism and regulatory tools to adequately protect significant canopy trees. Various Local Governments are seeking to address this void through statutory measures to retain existing trees on private land. However, due to the centralised nature of the state planning framework there is a need for the State to contemporary legislative and policy mechanisms in consultation with Local Government to enable the protection and growth of urban forest, in both greenfield and in-fill settings.

#### **Comment**

WALGA’s 2017 Advocacy Position 4.6 Urban Forestry is outdated and does not reflect the sector’s current urban forest advocacy priorities for legislative, regulation and policy change to manage the impacts of declining canopy and urban heat in their communities

It should be noted that the proposed positions are consistent with WALGA’s successful 2023-2024 State Budget Submission, which secured \$3.75m over two years for an Urban Greening Grant program for Local Governments.

The proposed positions have been informed by feedback from the Local Government Urban Forest Working Group.

On 31 May 2023, the People and Place Policy Team and the Environment and Waste Policy Team jointly endorsed the proposed new Urban Forest Advocacy Position and supported it being presented to State Council for endorsement.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**The GVROC note and support the WALGA Recommendation as provided.**

**RESOLUTION:**                      **Moved: Cr Peter Grundy, Shire of Wiluna**  
**Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie**

---

**Carried**



## **7.2 State Planning Policy 3.7 Bushfire and the Planning for Bushfire Guidelines**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

**That WALGA endorse the submission on *State Planning Policy 3.7 Bushfire and the Planning for Bushfire Guidelines*.**

#### **IN BRIEF:**

- *State Planning Policy 3.7 Bushfire* (SPP3.7) directs how land use and planning proposals should address bushfire risk in Western Australia. It applies to all land designated as bushfire prone, which is approximately 93% of the state.
- The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage has released a revised version of SPP3.7 and *Planning for Bushfire Guidelines* for public comment.
- Future changes to the *Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas* are planned that will create a revised mapping standard for lower risk areas, such as significantly built-up urban areas.
- The revised SPP 3.7 and Guidelines propose a nuanced response compared to the existing policy framework, with the intent of better reflecting the type of planning or development proposal and the level of bushfire risk.
- WALGA's submission generally supports the revised SPP3.7 and Guidelines. The more nuanced policy response better reflects the level of bushfire risk across the State and is a positive evolution of policy design. Several matters of concern and technical comments are raised in the submission.
- The public comment period closes on Monday, 17 July 2023.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- WALGA submission on State Planning Policy 3.7 Bushfire
- Planning for Bushfire Guidelines
- [State Planning Policy 3.7 Bushfire and Planning for Bushfire Guidelines](#)

#### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

WALGA's submission affirms with the following [WALGA Advocacy Positions](#):

##### **6.1 Planning Principles**

*All legislation and policy which deals with planning and development must:*

- *Ensure role clarity and consistency across all legislation controlling development to avoid confusion of powers and responsibilities;*
- *Be easily interpreted by, understood by and accessible to all sections of the community;*
- *Be amended only with WALGA involvement and/or consultation/involvement with Local Government.*

##### **6.2 Planning Reform**

*The Local Government sector supports the underlying principles of planning reform and the continuing focus of streamlining the planning system.*

##### **6.5 Bush Fire Hazard Mitigation and Planning**

*State Council supports state-wide, minimum bushfire mitigation standards, specifically to:*

- *Give legislative effect to bushfire guidelines*
- *Improve guidance on design of subdivision and buildings*
- *Provide policy guidance, model subdivision and development conditions*
- *Establish an accreditation system for BAL assessments*
- *Establish a training and education program.*

*The Local Government sector does not support the Department of Fire and Emergency Services' transferring of responsibility to the Local Government sector for the clearance of a subdivision condition for Bush Fire Management Plans, when the condition has been requested by DFES. The sector requires adequate and effective consultation on any review of the model subdivision condition relating to clearance.*

**BACKGROUND:**

In response to the findings and recommendations of Mr Mick Keelty AO in, *A Shared Responsibility: The Report of the Perth Hills Bushfire February 2011 Review*, the State Government released a suite of planning bushfire reforms in late 2015, including *State Planning Policy 3.7 – Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas* and supporting Guidelines. WALGA supported these reforms.

In response to ongoing concerns raised by the stakeholders, including WALGA and Local Governments about the implementation of these reforms and the operation of SPP3.7, in 2018 State Government instigated a review of the effectiveness of the bushfire policy framework undertaken by Dr Tony Buti MLA. The culmination of this work was a report titled, *Bushfire Planning and Policy Review: A Review into the Western Australian Framework for Planning and Development in Bushfire Prone Areas* (the Review). In response to the recommendation and findings of the Review the State Government announced an *Action Plan for Bushfire Framework Review 2019*, that included a comprehensive review of SPP3.7, the Guidelines and regulatory instruments related to bushfire.

**COMMENT:**

WALGA broadly supports the intent and approach proposed in SPP3.7, which takes a more nuanced policy approach that better reflects the level of bushfire risk across the State, while maintaining the policy intent to preserve life and property as paramount consideration. WALGA previously raised concerns that reviews of the planning for bushfire risk policy framework have been undertaken in a fragmented and piecemeal manner. Thus, the release of SPP3.7 after a comprehensive and thorough review process is welcomed.

The revised SPP 3.7 and the Guidelines incorporates several proposed modifications, including:

- a stronger emphasis on considering bushfire requirements in early planning stages
- new policy provisions to apply to different categories on the Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas
- introduction of an assessment of the broader landscape surrounding a development site, as a means of demonstrating locations with an unacceptable level of bushfire risk
- an outcomes-based approach to facilitate improved flexibility and understanding by decision-makers
- clearer guidance and a more user-friendly structure by segmenting the Guidelines into sections based on the planning stage
- clearer guidance on the preparation of bushfire management plans.

WALGA's submission was informed by direct engagement with Local Governments, previous endorsed submissions, and the Association's advocacy positions.

The submission highlights key comments and concerns of the sector as well as several detailed technical comments. The public comment period closes on Monday, 17 July.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**GVROC notes and supports the WALGA's submission on *State Planning Policy 3.7 Bushfire and the Planning for Bushfire Guidelines*.**

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: Cr Peter Grundy, Shire of Wiluna**  
**Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie**

---

**Carried**

## **7.3 Reforming WA Disability Legislation Submission**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

**That WALGA endorse the submission to the Department of Communities relating to the *Consultation Paper – Reforming WA Disability Legislation*.**

#### **IN BRIEF:**

- In March 2023, the Department of Communities (DoC) released the consultation paper 'Reforming WA Disability Legislation'.
- DoC is developing new disability legislation for Western Australia, largely driven by the State Disability Strategy 2020-2030 and the recommendations of the *Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability*.
- Under the current *Disability Services Act 1993* (DSA), Local Governments are legislated to implement Disability Access and Inclusion Plans (DAIPs).
- WALGA has consulted with the sector and developed a submission with 11 key recommendations.
- The recommendations make the case for additional measures to support Local Governments implement DAIPs to deliver enhanced access and inclusion outcomes within local communities through standardized governance, training, support and funding.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- WALGA Submission: Reforming WA Disability Legislation
- [Consultation Paper: Reforming WA Disability Legislation, March 2023](#)
- [State Disability Strategy 2020-2030](#)

#### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

This submission aligns with WALGA's existing [Advocacy Position](#):

##### **3.4 Disability:**

*The Local Government sector is committed to creating inclusive communities where people with disabilities have the same opportunities as other community members to access information, facilities and services provided by Council.*

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The *Disability Services Act 1993* (DSA) is the primary legislation in WA pertaining to disability services. Under the DSA, Local Governments are legislated to implement Disability Access and Inclusion Plans (DAIP) that set out objectives across seven key outcome areas.

In December 2020, the State Disability Strategy 2020-2030 (the Strategy) was released, setting out the vision to protect, uphold and advance the rights of people with disability living in WA. The Strategy is supported by a two-year Action Plan which sets the priority action to undertake the legislated renewal of the DSA, "*renew and refresh the approach to strengthening outcomes from mandated access and inclusion planning*". In addition, the State transitioned to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in December 2017, with the previous disability services systems operating under the DSA.

The current consultation process (stage one), running between March and June 2023, is focused on information gathering to support the development of the new legislation. The Department granted WALGA an extension until 10 July 2023 to ensure feedback from the sector can follow the ordinary State Council process.

In March 2023, WALGA established an Access and Inclusion Reference Group comprising Local Government staff with experience and knowledge in delivering disability access and inclusion, to guide the development of the submission. The Reference Group built on the existing experience and knowledge of the WA Local Government Access and Inclusion Network group, comprising over 60 Local Government representatives.

WALGA and DoC co-facilitated two forums for Local Government:

An online information session on Thursday, 20 April, attended by 27 Local Government representatives; and

An engagement workshop on Thursday, 27 April, attended by 13 Local Government representatives.



## 7.4 Landfill Bans Advocacy Position

### WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA endorse the following Landfill Ban Advocacy Position:

***Landfill bans are not supported in the absence of effective product stewardship schemes, or other funding mechanisms, for products which would be subject to the ban.***

#### IN BRIEF:

- The State Government has committed to delivering a state-wide E-waste ban to landfill by 2024, with the aim of improving management and recycling of e-waste produced by households and businesses across the State.
- Consultation has occurred on the proposed ban and a WALGA Submission on this matter was endorsed by State Council in March 2023.
- A key recommendation of this and previous WALGA Submissions is that any material subject to landfill bans must be covered by a fully effective product stewardship scheme prior to ban implementation.
- Without effective product stewardship arrangements in place for items covered under landfill bans, the burden of managing the product at end of life falls disproportionately to Local Governments.
- A new advocacy position is proposed that makes it clear that landfill bans are not supported in the absence of effective product stewardship schemes, or other funding mechanisms, for products which would be subject to the ban.
- A contemporary and clear advocacy position on landfill bans will enable WALGA to strongly discourage this policy approach and advocate to the Government for the range of conditions necessary to increase resource recovery and reduce disposal of material to landfill.

#### POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

WALGA does not currently have a formal position on landfill bans, however WALGA has made recommendations on this issue in previous submissions as far back as 2006.

#### Previous submissions

WALGA's 2006 Submission on the environmental, social and economic impacts of potential landfill bans on household packaging, building products and organic waste made the following recommendation:

*Any future investigations into a potential ban to landfill for any material type only be undertaken as a part of a multi-tool approach incorporating Extended Producer Responsibility programmes and other appropriate policies and mechanisms.*

WALGA's 2022 [Submission on the Stewardship for Consumer and Other Electrical and Electronic Products](#) made the following recommendation:

*WALGA does not support a landfill ban for e-waste in the absence of a fully effective product stewardship scheme for products which would be subject to the ban.*

WALGA's March 2023 [Submission on the WA E-Waste to Landfill Ban](#) reiterated the position that *comprehensive and effective product stewardship schemes must be implemented for products subject to the e-waste landfill ban prior to the ban taking effect.*

#### BACKGROUND:

The State Government made an election commitment to deliver a state-wide e-waste landfill ban by 2024, with the aim of improving management and recycling of e-waste produced by households and businesses across the State. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation released a [Consultation Paper](#) on the proposed e-waste landfill ban in January 2023.

The WA Government has not used landfill bans extensively, however they are used in other several other jurisdictions. The only existing landfill ban in WA is the tyre exclusion zone, which prohibits the landfilling of tyres in and around the Perth metropolitan area. The unintended consequence of the tyre exclusion zone is that tyres are transported outside this area and landfilled.

**COMMENT:**

The proposed Advocacy Position is consistent with and formalises recommendations in previous WALGA submissions to make it clear that landfill bans are not supported in the absence of effective product stewardship schemes, or other funding mechanisms, for products which would be subject to the ban.

Without effective product stewardship arrangements in place for items covered under landfill bans, the burden of managing the product at end of life falls disproportionately to Local Governments.

A contemporary and clear advocacy position on landfill bans will enable WALGA to strongly discourage this policy approach and advocate to the Government for the range of conditions necessary to increase resource recovery and reduce disposal of material to landfill.

This Advocacy Position has been endorsed by the Environment and Waste Policy Team and the Municipal Waste Advisory Council.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**GVROC note and support the WALGA Landfill Ban Advocacy Position as follows:**

***Landfill bans are not supported in the absence of effective product stewardship schemes, or other funding mechanisms, for products which would be subject to the ban.***

**RESOLUTION:**                      **Moved: Cr Peter Grundy, Shire of Wiluna**  
   **Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie**

---

**Carried**

## 7.5 Audit Experience Survey Results Summary and Advocacy Position

### WALGA Recommendation

#### That:

1. State Council note the Audit Experience Survey Results Summary; and
2. WALGA advocate to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) to reform the audit process for Local Governments by seeking:
  - a. Audits of Local Governments are completed and reported on in a timely manner and that the processes, procedures and scope of audits are consistently applied.
  - b. That the OAG review the requirements for pre-audit information with a view to reducing the need for additional information where possible;
  - c. That the OAG review their costing formulae for Local Government audits and show constraint in audit cost increases;
  - d. That the OAG provide a breakdown on the cost of the audit and justification for any variance to the estimate to the Local Government as part of the final billing process;
  - e. That auditors be required to improve their communication and information management and avoid repeated requests for information that has already been provided;
  - f. That Local Governments only be required to communicate with contract Auditors (*unless the OAG is directly auditing the Local Government*) and the onus be placed on the contract Auditors to confirm their advice with the OAG before instructing the Local Government; and
  - g. In-conjunction with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, review the application of Fair Value principles in the context of the audit.

#### IN BRIEF:

- In April, WALGA in partnership with LG Professionals WA conducted a survey of the Local Government sector to seek feedback on the annual audit process.
- A range of views were captured in the feedback, both positive and negative.
- The responses highlighted five key emerging issues in the audit process:
  - timeframe and delays;
  - additional workload on Local Government staff;
  - cost;
  - inconsistent advice from contract Auditors and the OAG; and
  - asset valuation requirements.
- WALGA and LG Professionals will continue to work with the OAG to reform the audit process in line with sector feedback, with a particular focus on those issues above.

#### ATTACHMENT:

- [Audit Experience Survey Results Summary](#)

#### POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

WALGA's current [Advocacy Position](#) in relation to audits was endorsed in 2019 and updated in 2022:

##### 2.2.2 Local Government Audit Structure

*Local Government audits carried out by the Office of the Auditor General should take into account the following:*

1. *Constraint on the audit cost increases*
2. *Audits of Local Governments are completed and reported on in a timely manner and that the processes, procedures and scope of audits are consistently applied.*
3. *Request the Office of the Auditor General include in the "Audit Results Report" for each financial year, a report on the effectiveness and additional value to Local Governments that the responsibility of Financial Audits being assigned to the Office of the Auditor General has provided.*
4. *Request the Minister for Local Government to provide a formal commitment that Performance Audits carried out by the Office of the Auditor General are the financial responsibility of the State Government.*
5. *Local Government Annual Financial Audits should be completed by the 31 October each year, so that Local [www.walga.asn.au](http://www.walga.asn.au) 26 Governments can reasonably comply with legislative provisions for Annual Reports and Elector Meetings.*

6. *Completion of Local Government Annual Financial Audits should not be delayed to enable completion of financial audits of a third party entity to which the Local Government is a participant or member, on the basis that each Local Government and Regional Local Government is a separate and independent entity and Australian Accounting standards equity accounting provisions already apply.*
7. *Audit issues should be raised with a Local Government no more than four weeks from submission of the Annual Financial Statements to the Office of the Auditor General.*
8. *Requests the OAG to review the accounting treatment for road assets transferred from Local Government to Main Roads WA, as the approach applied in 2020/21 resulted in significant distortion of operating results for Local Government in the year in which the transfer occurs.*

**BACKGROUND:**

Responsibility for financial auditing of Local Governments in WA transitioned from the Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) with the proclamation of the *Local Government Amendment (Auditing) Act 2017*.

Since this time, there have been a range of comments and criticisms of the audit experience from the Local Government sector. To improve the audit performance of auditors and the audit outcomes for individual Local Governments, this criticism needed to be corralled and formalised in discussions with the OAG.

To this end, WALGA and LG Professionals WA partnered in April 2023 to conduct a survey of the Local Government sector seeking feedback in relation to the annual audit process.

The survey was designed to enable the Associations to provide consistent and constructive advice to the OAG. The OAG is supportive of the process and welcomes this contribution from the peak bodies to inform their continued improvement.

The survey was marked confidential and only aggregated data and anonymous commentary will be utilised in any published commentary.

**COMMENT:**

The survey was distributed to all 139 Local Governments. 91 responses were received.

The survey was comprised of 17 questions, most of which were framed as a statement asking respondents to answer in one of five ways:

1. Strongly disagree;
2. Disagree;
3. Neutral;
4. Agree; or
5. Strongly agree.

Strong positive feedback was received in relation to the readiness of Local Government staff to answer queries as they arose during the audit<sup>1</sup> and to complete all audit preparation requirements prior to the site audit visit<sup>2</sup>. There was also a very high level of respect and appreciation amongst respondents for the professionalism of the audit staff.<sup>3</sup>

At the opposite end of the spectrum, the estimated audit costs were largely considered unreasonable<sup>4</sup> and the audit was often not completed in the scheduled timeframe<sup>5</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> Question 5, *Local Government staff were well prepared to answer audit queries as they arose during the conduct of the audit* – 57% agreed and 26% strongly agreed.

<sup>2</sup> Question 6, *All audit preparation requirements requested by the auditor were provided prior to the audit site visit* – 49% agreed and 25% strongly agreed.

<sup>3</sup> Question 10, *The audit staff conducted themselves professionally during the audit* – 52% agreed and 29% strongly agreed.

<sup>4</sup> Question 4, *The estimated audit costs were reasonable, given the Audit Brief and the comparative cost of previous audits* – 24% disagree, 27% strongly disagree and 28% neutral.

<sup>5</sup> Question 9, *The Audit was completed in the scheduled timeframe* – 22% disagree and 30% strongly disagree.



Mixed responses were received in relation to questions about audit staffs' Local Government knowledge,<sup>6</sup> and whether or not the audit experience was better than the previous 2020/21 audit.<sup>7</sup> Respondents noted in both questions that audit staff appeared more knowledgeable and better trained than the previous year, making the process easier and more timely. However, operational awareness of audit staff was still flagged as a potential area for improvement.

Overall, the responses to the survey highlight five key emerging issues for the OAG to address in the annual audit process:

1. Timeframe and delays

Over 50% of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed that "*the audit was completed in the scheduled timeframe*".<sup>8</sup> Comments from respondents suggested disruptions to the timeframe were caused by consecutive periods of leave taken by the Auditors and OAG staff, difficulties with asset valuations and collection of information. One respondent noted that the Auditors continually asked for more information from Local Government staff but refused to acknowledge the delays these requests were causing or allowing for any flexibility in the times allocated.

2. Additional workload on Local Government staff

Similar to the comments above, 60% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that "*there was additional workload placed on Local Government staff during the conduct of the audit, beyond the tasks anticipated in the pre-audit preparation advice*". Only 15% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement. Respondents noted that the tasks expected of Local Government staff "far exceeded" what was anticipated, and this led to a "very high workload" for staff and a strain on resources. Unclear instructions, poor communication and being asked to answer the same question multiple times were cited by respondents as causes for the additional workload.

3. Cost

Almost half of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement that "*the estimated audit costs were reasonable, given the Audit Brief and the comparative cost of previous audits*".<sup>9</sup> Comments from some respondents reported that the costs were more than twice that incurred prior to the OAG assuming responsibility for Local Government auditing. There was also feedback about a lack of transparency from the OAG in its failure to provide a cost breakdown.

In terms of the actual cost of the audit, only two respondents indicated that the final cost was less than the estimated cost, with a significant amount of respondents indicating the actual cost was higher than the estimated. The average difference between the estimated and actual was an increase of around \$12,000, with the biggest difference being \$40,000.

4. Inconsistent advice from contract Auditors and OAG

Whilst a majority of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that "*consistent advice was received from both contract Auditors and the OAG*",<sup>10</sup> several comments indicated that when inconsistent advice was received it led to confusion, delays and frustration. One respondent suggested that requiring the Local Government to only communicate with the contract Auditors, and not also the OAG, would avoid these outcomes. In this scenario, it would be up to the contract Auditors and the OAG to be on the same page in terms of the advice given, and this in turn would reduce "inconsistent advice or information from both parties".

5. Asset Valuation Requirements

There were a number of comments throughout the survey raising the need for simplification and clarification on the Fair Value asset valuation requirements. In response to question 11 about the consistency of advice from the contract Auditors and the OAG, one respondent noted that the advice received was good "apart from the issue of the valuation of assets".

---

<sup>6</sup> Question 7, *The audit staff had adequate Local Government knowledge and awareness to assist them in performing the audit* – 35% either disagreed or strongly disagreed, versus 55% agreed or strongly agreed.

<sup>7</sup> Question 16, *Compared to the 2020/21 audit, did you observe any improvement to the 2021/22 audit process that was worth nothing?* – This question asked for comments only.

<sup>8</sup> Question 9, *The Audit was completed in the scheduled*

<sup>9</sup> Question 4, *The estimated audit costs were reasonable, given the Audit Brief and the comparative cost of previous audits*

<sup>10</sup> Question 11, *Consistent advice was received from both contract auditors and the OAG*

A similar comment appears in question 14 where a respondent has sought clarification and guidance about “the timing of infrastructure revaluation and what mechanisms, beside management judgement, [are] in place to show how we have made the decision”. Feedback on the handling of the asset valuation process can also be seen in a comment in question 8 which suggests that “more thought needs to be given between the LG Sector and the OAG.”

Drawing on the above key issues, WALGA will be working with the OAG to achieve the following improvements to the audit process:

- Audits of Local Governments are completed and reported on in a timely manner and that the processes, procedures and scope of audits are consistently applied.
- That the OAG review the requirements for pre-audit information with a view to reducing the need for additional information where possible;
- That the OAG review their costing formulae for Local Government audits and show constraint in audit cost increases;
- That the OAG provide a breakdown on the cost of the audit and justification for any variance to the estimate to the Local Government as part of the final billing process;
- That auditors be required to improve their communication and information management and avoid repeated requests for information that has already been provided;
- That Local Governments only be required to communicate with contract Auditors (*unless the OAG is directly auditing the Local Government*) and the onus be placed on the contract Auditors to confirm their advice with the OAG before instructing the Local Government; and
- That the application of Fair Value principles be reviewed in the context of the audit.

These advocacy positions reflect the key findings of the Audit Experience Survey and broadly align with WALGA’s current advocacy positions.

**GVROC COMMENT:**

In discussion on this item the GVROC made a number of comments to be noted by WALGA and the State Council:

- WALGA’s summary and advocacy position was well written and highlights the majority of concerns raised previously by the GVROC LGAs.
- Reiterated the higher audit costs being incurred due to duplication of audit work compared to previously, and that this is a significant impact on smaller regional local governments with limited budgets.
- The quality and consistency of contracted Auditors is a major issue with many of the on the ground audit work being done by junior graduate auditors with no experience with local government and having to be brought up to speed, causing additional workload on local government staff, cost impacts and inconsistent advice and understanding being provided up the chain to the experienced Auditors and OAG. Every year this occurs when the next lot of graduate contract auditors come along.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**GVROC note and support the WALGA Recommendation as provided.**

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: Cr Peter Grundy, Shire of Wiluna**  
**Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie**

---

**Carried**

## 7.6 **Amendments to WALGA's Constitution**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

**That State Council endorse putting two items to the 2023 Annual General Meeting that:**

- 1. propose a new Constitution to give effect to the alternate governance model as per the attached; and**
- 2. amend the Constitution to retain the current governance model with necessary changes, as per the attached mark-up.**

### **VOTING REQUIREMENT: 75% SPECIAL MAJORITY**

#### **IN BRIEF:**

- At its last meeting, State Council resolved for two sets of constitutional changes to be developed for consideration by State Council, with the intention that Members would consider both sets of amendments at the 2023 Annual General Meeting:
  - One set to give effect to the alternate model, as per the [Best Practice Governance Review Final Report](#); and
  - A second set to refine the current Constitution to address inconsistencies and other issues while maintaining the current governance model.
- The constitutional changes have been prepared by legal firm, Jackson McDonald.
- Amendments to the [Association Constitution](#) require both a special (75 percent) majority at State Council and a special (75 percent) majority at a General Meeting of Members.
- Consequently, if the proposed sets of amendments are endorsed by State Council, they will be put to the 2023 Annual General Meeting on Monday, 18 September.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- WALGA Constitution – proposed new Constitution to give effect to alternate model
- WALGA Constitution (marked up) – proposed amendments (retaining current model)

#### **BACKGROUND:**

In March 2022, State Council commissioned the Best Practice Governance Review and appointed a Steering Committee to oversee the Project.

Following the endorsement of a set of Governance Principles by Members at the [2022 Annual General Meeting](#) (AGM), the Steering Committee put forward a [Consultation Paper](#) for feedback from Members. Informed by the Governance Principles, the Paper detailed five possible model options for WALGA's governance structure (including the Current Model).

A total of 99 Council-endorsed submissions were received in response to the model options. After considering both the submissions received and results of independent research conducted with the sector, the Steering Committee produced its [Final Report](#) and recommendation to State Council in February 2023.

At the meeting on [1 March](#) this year, State Council resolved that:

- 1. The Best Practice Governance Review Stage 3 Final Report be received;*
- 2. The proposed changes to WALGA's governance structure as per the revised Model 1, detailed in the Stage 3 Final Report, be noted;*
- 3. Members be engaged on the detail of the model and a Final Report be presented to the May 2023 State Council meeting for consideration;*
- 4. Any recommendation to the 2023 AGM include Option 5 as the Current Model and Option 1 as an alternative to the Current Model; and*
- 5. Subject to points 1, 2, 3 and 4 above, constitutional changes be developed for consideration by State Council.*

As per point 3 above, feedback was subsequently sought from Members in relation to the proposed alternate model.

A further report detailing the feedback was presented to State Council at its last meeting on [3 May](#). At that meeting, State Council resolved to receive the report, and that:

Two sets of constitutional changes be developed for consideration by State Council at the July 2023 meeting to be put to the 2023 Annual General Meeting, that:

- a. Give effect to the revised Model 1, as per the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report; and
- b. Refine the current constitution to address inconsistencies and other issues while maintaining the current governance model.

**COMMENT:**

Amendments to the Constitution require endorsement by a special (75 percent) majority at State Council, as well as a special (75 percent) majority at an AGM or Special General Meeting.<sup>11</sup> Consequently, if the proposed sets of amendments are endorsed by State Council, they will be put to the 2023 AGM on Monday, 18 September.

As per State Council’s resolution from [3 May](#), Members will be presented with two sets of constitutional changes at the 2023 AGM.

Assistance was sought from legal firm, Jackson McDonald to prepare the new constitution for the alternate model.

It is intended that the item recommending a new Constitution to give effect to the alternate model (“Set 1”) will be presented first, as only one version of the Constitution can be endorsed.

If that item does not receive 75 percent approval from Members, the item recommending amendments to the *current* Constitution but otherwise maintaining the current governance model (“Set 2”) will be presented.

If Set 1 is successfully passed by a special majority of Members, Set 2 will not be put to the vote.

The following sets out the detail around the two versions of the constitutional amendments.

**Set 1: Alternate Model**

The following provides a summary of the governance structure under the Alternate Model, as established in Set 1:

<b>Body</b>	<b>Composition and Term</b>	<b>Role</b>
<b>Board</b>	<p>Minimum of 8 up to a maximum of 11 Board members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President of State Council</li> <li>• Deputy President of State Council</li> <li>• 6 members elected from and by State Council members (3 from Metropolitan; 3 from Country)</li> <li>• Up to 3 ‘independent’ members appointed by the Board for their skills which can include Elected Members. State Council members are not eligible.</li> </ul> <p>Board members elected for a 2 year term; maximum Board Tenure Limit is 8 years (4 terms).</p> <p>The President and Deputy President is limited to 2 terms, maximum limit of 4 years. This maximum is in addition to the Board Tenure Limit, which means a person serving as President or Deputy President (or both) could be a Board member for up to 16 years.</p>	<p>The President is the Chair and the Deputy President is the Deputy Chair.</p> <p>The Board is responsible for the overall governance of WALGA, strategic direction, financial oversight, approving the annual budget, appointing the CEO etc.</p> <p>The Board must consult with State Council before changing boundaries of the Constituencies and/or allocating Ordinary Members to Zones and Constituencies.</p> <p>All Board members have a deliberative vote and it makes decisions by simple majority vote, except to change the powers of the Association, or representation or voting rights on State Council or the number of Zones, which requires an Absolute Majority decision of both the Board and State Council. Amending the Constitution requires an Absolute Majority decision of the Board, before being put to Members. The Board will meet at least 6 times per year.</p>

<sup>11</sup> [Association Constitution](#), clause 29

**State Council**

26 State Council members:

- The President elected from and by the 24 State Council Representatives (Ex officio).
- 12 elected by and from Metropolitan Zones
- 12 elected by and from Country Zones
- The President of Local Government Professionals Australia WA (Ex-officio) – does not have a right to vote.

The Deputy President is elected from amongst and by the 24 State Council members from the alternative constituency to the President. (That is, if the President is from a Metropolitan Zone, the Deputy will be elected from the 12 Country Zone representatives).

Once the President is elected, the Zone that they were elected to represent, appoints a replacement to State Council.

The primary State Council members elected by the Zones are the primary State Council members, the deputies may attend the State Council meetings and vote if the primary representative is unable to attend. Only primary State Council members are eligible to be elected to the Board.

State Council members are not eligible to be appointed as an independent Board member.

State Council members are elected for a two year term. There is no tenure limit for State Council members.

The President chairs State Council meetings but does not have a deliberative vote (has a casting vote). State Council elects the President, Deputy President and members to the Board. State Council considers matters referred to it by the Board for consultation or approval. State Council decisions are made by voting as per the current process. State Council will meet at least 3 times per year. State Council and the Board composition is based upon the principle that there should be equal representation from both Constituencies.

**Zones**

There are:

- 5 Metropolitan Zones; and
- 12 Country Zones.

The boundaries of the Zones (i.e. Metropolitan v Country) are determined by the Board (in consultation with State Council) and documented in the Corporate Governance Charter.

The Zones comprise of representatives from Ordinary Members as determined by the Board (in consultation with State Council).

The number of Zones and the number of representatives that may be elected by a Zone to State Council are determined by an Absolute Majority decision of both the Board and State Council.

The Zones elect members to State Council, as follows:

- Each Country Zone elects one primary representative and one deputy representative to State Council.
- In the Metropolitan constituency:
  - The North Zone elects 3 primary representatives and a deputy for each to State Council.
  - The South Zone elects 3 primary representatives and a deputy for each to State Council.
  - The other 3 Zones each elect 2 primary representatives and a deputy for each to State Council.

**Set 2: Amended Current Model**

The proposed amendments to the Constitution in Set 2 will provide necessary changes, but otherwise retain the current governance model. The proposed changes are intended to fix some inconsistencies that have emerged after several rounds of amendments since the Constitution was first adopted in 2001, as well as to address some potential issues that have been raised by State Council.

- There are several proposed amendments to the definitions contained in clause 2 Interpretation. In particular:
  - the inclusion of new definitions for “General Meeting”, “Ordinary Meeting” and “Special Meeting”; and

- the refinement of the current definitions for “Constituency”, “Country Constituency” and “Metropolitan Constituency” to move away from defining boundaries by way of the Metropolitan Region Planning Scheme.
- The deletion of clause 9(2) in light of clause 12(2)(b), which empowers State Council to decide the “allocation or change in allocation of any representation or voting rights on the State Council”, rather than Members. Similarly, clause 14(3) to be amended to again empower State Council to decide the number of Zones, rather than the Members at a General Meeting.
- A new reason for disqualification has been included in clause 22(k) that refers to a State Councillor, Deputy State Councillor, President or Deputy President vacating their office once they become a candidate for election to a State or Federal Parliament “on or after the date the election writ is issued”. This addition was prompted by State Council discussions in [September 2021](#) which resulted in similar changes to the Corporate Governance Charter.
- The deletion of clause 33(1)(c) as it deals with a non-Constitutional topic.
- In Schedule One, the meaning of subclause (f) was unclear and so has been deleted.
- The Register of Delegate Powers, Authorities, Discretions and Duties in Schedule Two has been amended to only include those powers as referred to in the Constitution, with those other powers to be captured in the Corporate Governance Charter.
- Finally, there has been a general tidy up of defined terms throughout the Constitution (that is, terms that are defined in clause 2 and require capitalization).

**Transition Process**

If Set 1 is passed at the AGM in September, the transition process from the current governance model to the new model will not begin until the first meeting of State Council in December. The key change will be the election and formation of the new Board.

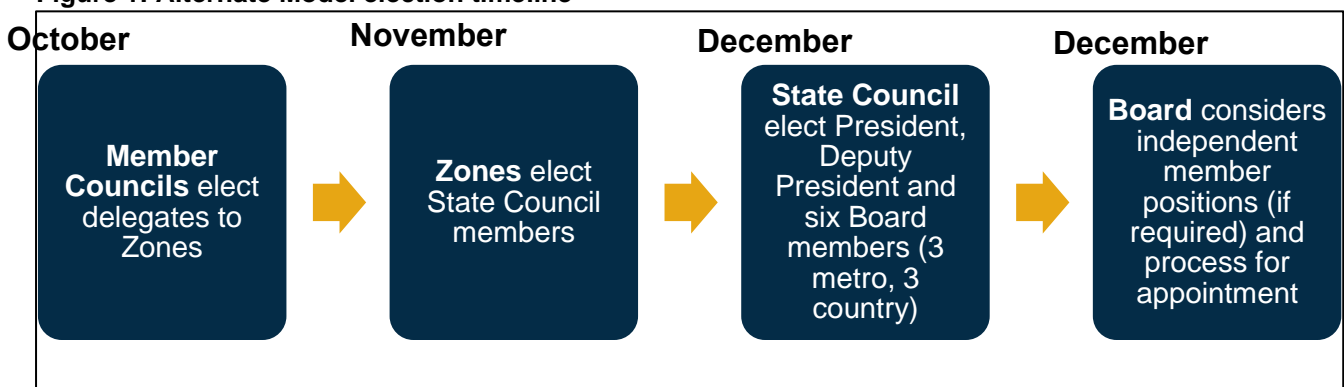
Following the Local Government elections in October, Councils will meet and elect Zone Delegates, then the Zones will meet in November as usual to elect representatives and deputy representatives to State Council.

At the meeting of the new State Council on 6 December, the President and Deputy President will be elected along with six Board members (three Country and three Metropolitan). Then, at the first meeting of the newly elected Board, they will consider up to three independent member positions (if required) and the process for appointment.

The current WALGA President and Deputy President will remain in those positions until the State Council meeting on 6 December. The term for current State Councillors will conclude on 5 December (being the day before the December meeting),<sup>12</sup> with those State Councillors elected during the November round of Zone meetings commencing on 6 December.<sup>13</sup>

A new schedule (Schedule 3) will be inserted if Set 1 is approved which contains the Transitional Provisions.

**Figure 1: Alternate Model election timeline**

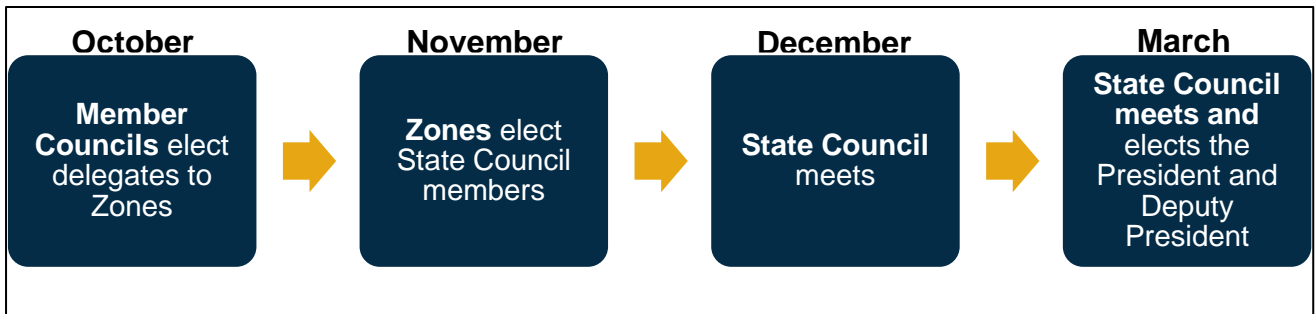


If Set 1 does not reach the requisite 75 percent approval from Members at the AGM, Set 2 will be presented for consideration. If Set 2 is approved, the election process will remain unchanged. Councils will elect Zone Delegates in October, who will then meet in November and elect representatives to State

<sup>12</sup> [Association Constitution](#), clause 9(3)

<sup>13</sup> [Association Constitution](#), clause 9(3)

Council. The President and Deputy President will continue in their positions until the first ordinary meeting of State Council in March 2024,<sup>14</sup> at which point an election will be held for both positions.



**Figure 2: Amended current model election timeline**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**GVROC note the two amendment items to the WALGA Constitution to be presented at the 2023 Annual General Meeting that:**

- 1. propose a new Constitution to give effect to the alternate governance model as per the attached; and**
- 2. amend the Constitution to retain the current governance model with necessary changes, as per the attached mark-up.**

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: *Mr Jim Epis, Shire of Leonora***

**Seconded: *Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie***

**Carried**

---

<sup>14</sup> [Association Constitution](#), clauses 17(2) and 18(2)

## **8. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Noting/Information**

### **8.1 Flying Minute – Submission to 2023 State Wage Case**

#### **WALGA Recommendation**

**That State Council note the WALGA 2023 State Wage Case submission, as endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute.**

#### **IN BRIEF:**

- Annually, the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission (WAIRC) in Court Session issues a decision setting the WA minimum wage.
- WALGA has an opportunity to file a submission with the WAIRC containing Local Government specific information and economic data for the WAIRC to consider when making its decision.
- The provision of a submission is important because Local Governments are now the second largest employer in the State industrial relations (IR) system (after the State Government) and the decision issued may impact on Local Government employee wages.
- State Council endorsed the WALGA 2023 State Wage Case submission by way of Flying Minute on 15 May.

#### **ATTACHMENT:**

- [WALGA submission for the 2023 State Wage Case](#)

#### **Policy Implications**

This submission does not affirm, amend or create a new policy position. The purpose of this submission is to provide the WAIRC with Local Government relevant economic information to consider when deciding on increases to the State minimum wage and State awards. These increases may in turn affect the pay rates Local Governments provide their employees.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

1. On 1 January 2023 the State and Federal Governments legislated for WA Local Governments and Regional Councils to be State system employers which required approximately 80% of the sector to transition from the Federal IR system to the State IR system.
2. Local Governments are now the second largest employer of employees in the State IR system, after State Government employees.
3. Annually the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission issues a State Wage Case General Order (State Wage Order) in June which sets the WA minimum wage for adults, apprentices and trainees, and adjusts wage rates under the State awards.
4. The State Wage Order now applies to all Local Governments and Regional Councils in WA (with the exception of the Shire of Christmas Island and the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands).
5. Local Governments must ensure that the wages paid to employees are the same as, or higher than, the State minimum wage. As a general rule, many Local Governments provide much higher rates of pay than the State minimum wage which is important for the attraction and retention of staff.
6. All interested persons and organisations have an opportunity to provide a submission to the WAIRC by 17 May 2023 regarding what minimum wage should be set. The call for submissions is published on the WAIRC website [here](#) and the WAIRC wrote to WALGA on 21 February 2023 advising of the opportunity to provide a submission should WALGA wish to do so. This notification is based on WALGA's request to the WAIRC last year to be kept abreast of new applications and opportunities to provide submissions given the transition of Local Governments to the State IR system.
7. The call for submissions was made public on the WAIRC's website and published in The West Australian Newspaper. An email alert was also sent to Local Governments about this on 27 April 2023.



8. The organisations which usually file submissions for the State Wage Order include the WA Minister for Industrial Relations, UnionsWA, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA and the WA Council of Social Service. The first three organisations listed are section 29(1)(b) parties under the *Industrial Relations Act 1979 (WA)* (IR Act) which means they have the power under the IR Act including to (among other things) refer matters to the WAIRC and they are served with new applications made to the WAIRC for general orders, award variations, new industrial agreements, etc. Division 3 of the IR Act contains the rights and obligations of the WAIRC and the section 29(1)(b) parties for the State Wage Order.
9. These organisations which file submissions provide extensive economic data for the WAIRC to consider when setting the State minimum wage. The WAIRC also considers the minimum wage rate set by the Federal Fair Work Commission (FWC) before releasing its decision. Previous submissions can be viewed on the WAIRC website [here](#).
10. On the basis that the Chief Commissioner of the WAIRC wrote to WALGA about the State Wage Case it is likely that it considers that the views of the Local Government sector may be of assistance to the making of the State Wage Order (see s. 51BA(1)(a) of the IR Act).
11. The provision of a short submission from WALGA will provide the WAIRC with Local Government specific economic data to consider when setting the minimum wage. The submission has been drafted by the WALGA Economics team and the Employee Relations team.

WAIRC considerations when determining the State Wage Order

12. In making its decision, the WAIRC is required to consider the need to:
  - a. ensure that Western Australians have a system of fair wages and conditions of employment; and
  - b. meet the needs of the low paid; and
  - c. provide fair wage standards in the context of living standards generally prevailing in the community; and
  - d. contribute to improved living standards for employees; and
  - e. protect employees who may be unable to reach an industrial agreement; and
  - f. encourage ongoing skills development.
13. The WAIRC is also required to consider:
  - a. the state of the economy of Western Australia and the likely effect of its decision on that economy and, in particular, on the level of employment, inflation and productivity in Western Australia; and
  - b. to the extent that it is relevant, the state of the national economy; and
  - c. to the extent that it is relevant, the capacity of employers as a whole to bear the costs of increased wages, salaries, allowances and other remuneration; and
  - d. the need to ensure that the Western Australian award framework represents a system of fair wages and conditions of employment; and
  - e. relevant decisions of other industrial courts and tribunals; and
  - f. any other relevant matters.

Historic WAIRC wage increases

14. The historic increases to the State minimum wage and award rates determined by the WAIRC are set out in the below table.

<b>WAIRC State Wage Order Increases wage</b>	1 July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The State minimum adult wage increase: \$40.90 per week (or 5.25%) to \$819.90 per week.</li> <li>• WA award rate increase: Rates below \$887.40 per week will increase by \$40.90 per week and award rates above \$887.40 per week will increase by 4.65%</li> </ul>
	1 July 2021	2.5%
	1 January 2021	1.75%
	1 July 2019	\$20.00 per week

	1 July 2018	\$18.00 per week
	1 July 2017	\$16.00 per week
	1 July 2016	\$15.80 per week
	1 July 2015	\$14.00 per week
	1 July 2014	\$20.00 per week
	1 July 2013	\$18.20 per week
	1 July 2012	\$20.60 per week

Impact of the State Wage Order on Local Governments

15. In the table below we have set out how the State Wage Order affects Local Governments and their industrial agreements and awards. An award is a document setting out minimum terms and conditions of employment for a particular industry or occupation. An industrial agreement is a collective agreement negotiated between an employer and unions.

	<b>Impact on awards / transitional award</b>	<b>Impact on industrial agreements</b>
<b>Local Governments that transitioned from the Federal IR system to the State IR system <u>on 1 January 2023</u></b>	<p>The wages in the <a href="#">Local Government Industry Award 2020 Industrial Agreement</a> (LGIA IA) must be higher than the State minimum wage.</p> <p>Currently, the wage rates in the LGIA IA are higher than the State minimum wage. This comparison will need to be done again when the 2023 State Wage General Order is issued in June.</p>	<p>The wages in an <a href="#">industrial agreement</a> must be higher than the State minimum wage.</p> <p>Local Governments need to undertake their own assessment of their industrial agreement wage rates against the State minimum wage rates.</p>
<b>Local Governments that operated in the State IR system <u>before 1 January 2023</u></b>	<p>The wages in the <a href="#">Local Government Officers' (Western Australia) Award 2021</a> (LGO Award) and the <a href="#">Municipal Employees (Western Australia) Award 2021</a> (ME Award) must be higher than the State minimum wage. *Currently there is an issue with level 1 wage rates under the ME Award (see below).</p> <p>The award rates will increase when the 2023 State Wage General Order is issued in June.</p>	<p>The wages in an <a href="#">industrial agreement</a> must be higher than the State minimum wage.</p> <p>Local Governments need to undertake their own assessment of their industrial agreement wage rates against the State minimum wage rates.</p>

16. \*Local Governments applying the ME Award: Currently the level 1 wage rate in clause 16.1 of the ME Award is lower than the State minimum wage. This means Local Governments must not apply the level 1 rates directly from the ME Award, they must apply the State minimum wage which is currently \$819.90 per week.

How Local Governments determine wage increases for employees

17. The wage increase applied to employee wages (with the exception of the CEO) should be determined in the following ways:
- a. An industrial agreement contains a wage increase which must be applied to employees;
  - b. An award contains a wage increase which must be applied to employees (where employees are paid the minimum award rate and are not subject to an industrial agreement);

- c. A policy or annual decision which links an employee wage increase to the WAIRC State Wage Increase or FWC Federal wage increase, Consumer Price Index (CPI), Wage Price Index (WPI) or another economic indicator.

**Comment**

WALGA's submission provides an opportunity for the Local Government sector to influence minimum wage and award pay rates, which in turn impacts on wages paid to Local Government employees. The organisations which traditionally make State Wage Case submissions provide extensive economic data for WA (in particular the State Government). The provision of Local Government specific background and economic data will assist the WAIRC to consider the Local Government sector in its decision.

The Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team provided input into this submission and recommended endorsement.

State Council considered and endorsed this submission by way of Flying Minute on 15 May.

**GVROC COMMENT:**

In discussion on this item the GVROC made a number of comments to be noted by WALGA and the State Council in relation to this item:

- LGAs are continuing to have issues since the decision on 1 January 2023 to transition from the Federal IR system to the State IR system, as it now involves a significant amount of time and resources to negotiate salary agreements and set wages.
- Negotiating with union representatives on collective agreements rather than individual workplace agreements also now place significant workloads on the LGA CEOs that was not necessary when operating under the Federal IR System.
- The State IR system is not as flexible as the Federal IR System.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC note the WALGA 2023 State Wage Case submission, as endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute.**

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: Cr Peter Grundy, Shire of Wiluna**

**Seconded: Mr Kevin Hannagan, Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku**

---

**Carried**

## **8.2 Environmental Protection Amendment Regulations 2022: Consultation Response**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

**That State Council note the consultation response to the Environmental Protection Amendment Regulations 2022.**

#### **IN BRIEF:**

- In March 2023, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) released the draft Environmental Protection Amendment Regulations 2022 (draft Regulations) for public comment.
- The draft Regulations propose classes of region and local planning scheme amendments that would be exempt from the requirement to refer all planning scheme amendments to the WA Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to determine if formal environmental impact assessment is required.
- The draft Regulations are generally consistent with submissions made by WALGA to DWER in 2020 and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) in 2021.
- WALGA's response included several recommendations to align the Regulations more closely with WALGA's recent submissions.
- The consultation response was endorsed by the People and Place Policy Team and submitted to DWER on 14 April 2023.

#### **ATTACHMENT:**

- [Consultation Response on Environmental Protection Amendment Regulations 2022](#)

#### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

The submission aligns with WALGA's existing [Advocacy Positions](#) and previous submissions to the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* in 2020 and Planning Reform Phase 2 in 2021:

##### **6.1 Planning Principles**

*All legislation and policy which deals with planning and development must:*

- *ensure role clarity and consistency across all legislation controlling development, to avoid confusion of powers and responsibilities;*
- *be easily interpreted by, understood by and accessible to all sections of the community;*
- *be amended only with WALGA involvement and or consultation/involvement with Local Government*

##### **6.2 Planning Reform**

*The Local Government sector supports the underlying principles of planning reform and the continuing focus of streamlining the planning system.*

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Planning authorities are required by state legislation to refer all regional and local planning scheme amendments to the WA Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to determine if the planning scheme amendment should be formally assessed under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. If the EPA determines that the scheme amendment may have a significant environmental impact, the EPA can require the proponent of the amendment to prepare a formal environmental impact assessment.

Hundreds of planning scheme amendments are referred to the EPA to determine each year. Many of these have no environmental impact and most amendments do not require formal environmental impact assessment, which unnecessarily increases the time and resources taken to process planning scheme amendments.

WALGA has recognised that there is substantial scope to identify classes of scheme amendments that should not be referred to the EPA. In 2020, WALGA advocated for changes to the EPA's planning scheme amendment referral process in its submission on the proposed *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) amendments, and in 2021, WALGA advocated for these changes in its submission on Planning Reform Phase 2.

In March 2023, DWER released draft Regulations proposing classes of region and local planning scheme amendments that would not need to be referred to the EPA for public comment by 14 April 2023.

**COMMENT:**

The draft Regulations propose classes of region and local planning scheme amendments that would not need to be referred to the EPA. Given that Local Governments do not process *region* planning scheme amendments, and all region planning scheme amendments are referred to Local Governments by DPLH for comment, WALGA's consultation response focused on the proposed regulations that would affect *local* planning scheme amendment processes.

The proposed local planning scheme amendment class definitions are generally consistent with WALGA's previous submissions and provide a useful level of detail to help Local Government officers determine if a local planning scheme amendment should be referred to the EPA.

WALGA's consultation response included several recommendations to align the Regulations more closely with WALGA's recent submissions. These amendments include:

- An expanded scope of local planning scheme amendment classes to include two additional types of basic scheme amendment that have no environmental risk and should not need to be referred to the EPA for review.
- Removing the proposed density coding class given that this class does not reflect community concerns (or WALGA's [Advocacy Position](#)) related to the loss of urban forest canopy. If the mechanisms recently introduced into the state planning framework are proven effective and efficient in preserving urban forest canopy, such as those included in the Medium Density Housing Code, this class could be included through a future review of the Regulations.
- Removing the definition of "minor amendment" due to inconsistencies with terminology used in other state regulations.
- Three measures to support a smooth transition to the new Regulations, achieve quality control and refine the amendment classes in the future:
  1. Information sessions for Local Government officers;
  2. A review within one year of the Regulations coming into effect, to assess the effectiveness of the new Regulations;
  3. Establishing an electronic submission form for scheme amendments to, at a future point, allow the EPA to more easily identify additional scheme amendment classes to include in the Regulations.
- Establish an automated notification system that notifies Local Governments of an EPA decision following review of the scheme amendment by the EPA given that Local Governments have indicated that they are not always advised by the EPA when it has completed a scheme amendment review.

Importantly, if Local Governments are unsure of whether a scheme amendment fits within the classes included in the Regulations, Local Governments will be able to contact the EPA for advice or formally refer the amendment to the EPA for a decision.

The consultation response was prepared in March, provided to the People and Place Policy Team for endorsement on 3 April and was lodged with DWER on 14 April.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC note the WALGA consultation response to the Environmental Protection Amendment Regulations 2022.**

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: Cr Peter Grundy, Shire of Wiluna**

**Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie**

---

**Carried**

## **8.3 Local Government Performance Monitoring Project**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

**That State Council note the results of the 2021-22 Local Government Performance Monitoring Project.**

#### **IN BRIEF:**

- WALGA initiated the Local Government Performance Monitoring Project in 2018. WALGA has continued and expanded the Project producing subsequent Reports in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.
- 36 Local Governments participated in the Project this year. These Local Governments are home to approximately 80% of Western Australia's population and between 2001 and 2021 accounted for 83% of the state's total population growth.
- The 2021-22 data shows that Local Governments have maintained high performance in undertaking their planning and building functions.
- They provide a strong indication of how the Local Government sector in Western Australia is performing in the areas of strategic and statutory planning and building regulation. In 2022, process and technological improvements were undertaken to improve how the data is conveyed and presented. The findings of the Project are incorporated into an online interactive dashboard publicly available through the WALGA website.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

[2023 Key Indicator Snapshot](#)  
[Performance Monitoring Dashboard](#)

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Local Government Performance Monitoring Project (the Project) and associated Local Government Performance Monitoring Report (the Report) was initiated by the Growth Alliance Perth and Peel (GAPP) group and WALGA in 2018 in response to a 2016 Property Council report, Benchmarking Greater Perth Local Governments. The Property Council report, which was critical of the planning performance of 29 Local Governments in the Greater Perth area, contained a number of inaccuracies and selective use of data.

The Project and Report have been undertaken annually since that time, with the number of participating Local Governments increasing from 11 to 36 in 2021-22. The process of collecting and reporting data has also been refined and improved. The Performance Monitoring Dashboard, now in its second year, provides a collated view of all participating Local Governments across the six years of Project reporting, and allows Local Governments to analyse and compare performance by year, region or against individual Local Governments. The use of the dashboard reduces project costs and reporting times and allows for a faster expansion of the Project.

The dashboard is not intended to be a comparison of individual Local Government performance, however it allows individual Local Governments to draw comparisons between themselves and other Local Governments, which may be useful for those who may have similar development pressures and resourcing.

#### **COMMENTS:**

36 Local Governments participated in the 2023 project: the Cities of Albany, Armadale, Bayswater, Belmont, Bunbury, Busselton, Canning, Cockburn, Fremantle, Gosnells, Greater Geraldton, Joondalup, Kalamunda, Karratha, Kwinana, Mandurah, Melville, Nedlands, Perth, Rockingham, South Perth, Stirling, Subiaco, Swan, Vincent, Wanneroo; the Towns of Bassendean, East Fremantle, Port Hedland and Victoria Park; and, the Shires of Augusta-Margaret River, Broome, Mundaring, Nannup, Northam and Serpentine Jarrahdale.

These Local Governments are home to approximately 80% of Western Australia's population and between 2001 and 2021 accounted for 83% of the state's total population growth. Collectively they provide a strong indication of how the Local Government sector in Western Australia is performing in the areas of strategic and statutory planning and building regulation. The relatively low variance collectively

and within most of the individual performance indicators suggests that the performance may be reflective of the Local Government sector as a whole, although there are exceptions.

Key findings from 2023:

- Determined 65,544 applications (development applications, subdivision referrals and building permits) by Local Governments, a 12% increase on the previous year,
- 89% of all applications were determined or responded to within statutory timeframes,
- 99% of all development applications were approved,
- 98% of all development applications were determined under delegated authority
- 20 Local Governments are currently reviewing their Local Planning Scheme
- Local Governments continue to have concerns with the length of time to receive consent to advertise and final endorsement for Local Planning Schemes,
- For scheme amendments, on average:
  - Local Governments finalised 67 scheme amendments in 2021/2022, with each taking an average of 20 months to complete, an increase of 2 months from 2020/21
  - 47% of the time taken to complete scheme amendments could be attributed to State Government processes, aligning with the 47% average over the 6 years of reporting.

WALGA will continue to utilise this information to inform policy development, advice and advocacy in relation to any legislation, policy or regulations prepared by the State which affect the planning and building functions of Local Government.

WALGA is also encouraging additional Local Governments to participate in the 2022-23 financial year reporting period.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC note the WALGA results of the 2021-22 Local Government Performance Monitoring Project.**

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: *Mr Jim Epis, Shire of Leonora***  
**Seconded: *Cr Ian Mickel, Shire of Esperance***

---

**Carried**

## **8.4 Street Lighting Tariffs**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

**That State Council note the update on the 2023-24 street lighting tariffs.**

#### **IN BRIEF:**

- In May 2023, Western Power provided its Price List to the Economic Regulation Authority (ERA) for approval, which included a proposed 43.85% increase for street lighting tariffs.
- The proposed increase would apply to the costs paid by Synergy to access Western Power's network, which are a large component of the final tariff paid by Local Governments to Synergy.
- WALGA responded quickly to the proposed increase, with the WALGA CEO and President writing to the ERA, Minister for Energy and Minister for Local Government, expressing the sector's strong concerns about the magnitude of the unjustified and unexpected increase.
- Local Governments also wrote directly to the ERA and spoke publicly on the impact the proposed increase would have on their communities.
- The ERA rejected the proposed increase, instead approving a 7.5% increase in the network component of the streetlight tariff for 2023-24, in line with their forecast of the average increase in network charges.
- In making its decision, the ERA acknowledged Local Governments' concerns on streetlighting tariffs.
- Local Governments can expect to see street lighting costs rise by 4.8% in 2023-24, in line with the approved tariff increase set out in the State Budget Papers.

#### **ATTACHMENT:**

- [Letter to the ERA](#)
- [Letter to Minister for Housing; Lands; Homelessness; Local Government](#)
- [Letter to Minister for Mines and Petroleum, Energy, Corrective Services and Industrial Relations](#)
- [ERA Statement](#)
- [WALGA Media Statement](#)

#### **BACKGROUND:**

On 27 April, the ERA published the draft Western Power price list for 2023-24. Western Power proposed to increase prices for streetlighting by an average of 43.85% from 1 July 2023.

The tariff paid by Local Governments to Synergy or Horizon Power is set by the Government through the State Budget process. However, the price paid by Synergy to Western Power for streetlighting is an important consideration, if Synergy is to be able to recover its costs, including the electricity, through the tariff.

WALGA wrote to the Chair of the ERA to express the Local Government sector's strong concerns regarding the magnitude of the proposed increase, which had not been justified by Western Power and was unexpected by Local Governments. Similar concerns were also raised with the Minister for Energy and the Minister for Local Government.

WALGA also encouraged Local Governments that would be significantly impacted to contact the ERA and their Local Member of Parliament to raise their concerns, including the financial impact of the proposed increase. A number of Local Governments wrote to the ERA to raise their concerns and also raised their concerns publicly.

The ERA published its [decision on Western Power's 2023/24 price list](#) on 17 May 2023. The ERA rejected the proposed 43.85% increase to the streetlight tariff, instead approving a 7.5% increase in the network component of the streetlight tariff for 2023-24, in line with their forecast of the average increase in network charges. In making its determination the ERA acknowledged the concerns raised by WALGA, along with many Local Governments (see attached statement).

Steve Edwell, Chair of the ERA acknowledged:

*It is important for local governments to understand what network costs are driving increases in streetlighting tariffs and have reasonable notice of any changes. The ERA will be working with Western Power and the Local Government Association to resolve streetlight tariffs subsequent to this year increase.*



The 2023-24 State Budget set out a 4.8% increase in the streetlighting tariff.

**COMMENT:**

While ultimately the ERA's decision is based its own assessment of Western Power's proposal, WALGA's advocacy on this issue ensured the ERA was well informed and that the impacts on street lighting customers were taken into consideration.

Success on this issue is also attributable to the Local Governments that wrote directly to the ERA, made formal representations to State Members of Parliament and spoke publicly on the impact the proposed increase would have on their communities.

This is an important outcome for the sector which highlights the importance of an independent regulator having oversight of network costs imposed on Local Government.

It is worth noting the following from the ERA determination:

*The ERA has concerns about Western Power's estimate of streetlight costs and considers that further review is needed of the proposed costs, in conjunction with streetlight customers, to ensure that the cost is calculated correctly and only includes the efficient costs directly related to the provision of streetlight services.*

WALGA will work with the ERA and Western Power over the coming year to represent the sectors interests on future street lighting tariff increases and to ensure that the sector can prepare and budget for any expected increases.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC note the WALGA's update on the 2023-24 street lighting tariffs.**

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**

**Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie**

---

**Carried**

## **8.5 2023-24 Federal and State Budgets**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

**That State Council note the update on the 2023-24 Federal and State Budgets and impacts on Local Government.**

#### **IN BRIEF:**

- The Federal and State Budgets were handed down on 9 and 11 May 2023.
- The Federal Budget retained its commitment to a number of important programs for Local Government but there were few new spending announcements.
- The State Budget provided funding for a number of important areas identified in WALGA's State Budget Submission.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- [WALGA Federal Budget 2023-24 Highlights](#)
- [WALGA State Budget 2023-24 Highlights](#)
- [WALGA State Budget Submission 2023-24](#)

#### **BACKGROUND:**

##### Federal Budget

On Tuesday, 11 May 2023 the Federal Treasurer, Jim Chalmers, handed down the 2023-24 Budget, focused on cost of living relief to households and delivering on the Government's spending priorities without adding to inflationary pressures.

The other key focus of the Federal budget was fiscal restraint with a surplus predicted for 2022-23, which will be the first in 15 years.

Cost of living was a centrepiece of the budget, with \$14.6 billion in relief provided for households over the next four years. A range of measures have been announced to take pressure off costs, including energy bill relief for households and small businesses, reduced costs for healthcare and medicines, childcare support and rent assistance.

The Budget also focussed on healthcare and aged care. The headline announcement in this area included \$5.7 billion over five years to strengthen Medicare by tripling bulk billing incentives (for children under 16, pensioners and other concession card holders). More than 250,000 aged care workers will receive a 15% increase in salaries and there is an expansion in the number of urgent care clinics.

Other key areas of spending were directed towards addressing disadvantage and strengthening the economy through development of the renewable energy industry and addressing skills shortages.

##### State Budget

On Thursday, 11 May 2023 the State Government handed down the 2023-24 Budget. The primary focus of the Budget was on cost of living relief in addition to investments in infrastructure, health and housing, the commitment to reaching net zero emissions and diversification of the economy. A surplus of \$3.3 billion was forecast for 2023-24 with the budget in surplus across the forward estimates.

WALGA attended the Budget lockup to analyse the impact of the Budget on Local Government. The WALGA President and CEO provided a summary of the Budget to Mayors, Presidents and CEOs on the evening of the Budget, with detailed analysis available on the WALGA website and newsletters over the following week.

For Local Governments, the Budget allocated funding in a number of areas identified in the WALGA 2023-24 State Budget Submission:

- \$3.75 million to deliver a grant program over 2023-24 and 2024-25 to **increase tree canopy cover** and improve biodiversity within Western Australia's urban centres.
- An additional \$15 million for the **Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund**, which will be spent over 2023-24 and 2024-25, bringing the Fund to \$20 million for these two years respectively.

- Confirmation of the State Government's ongoing funding commitment to the **State Road Funds to Local Government** to assist Councils with the management of the local road network.
- Additional expenditure of \$77 million over the forward estimates for the ongoing operational costs associated with the **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021** and to fund Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services.
- Increased expenditure for **regional health and mental health initiatives** of \$342 million, including the continuation of the Mental Health Emergency Telehealth Service and additional investment in WA Health's regional workforce.
- An additional \$12 million for the **Regional Development Assistance Program** from 2023-24 to 2026-27 for residential, industrial, commercial and tourism-related land and infrastructure projects.
- \$3.6 million in 2023-24 to assist with **mid-tier transport planning**.
- \$5.5m to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage to integrate climate adaption into policy and planning frameworks.
- \$300,000 to develop a business case to support a Stage 2 Infrastructure Australia proposal for a Western Australian **coastal hazard adaptation program**.
- An additional \$1.1 million will be spent in 2023-24 for the Department of Fire and Emergency Services to continue the consolidation of existing emergency services legislation into a new **Emergency Services Act**.

The Budget also contained funding for a number of other initiatives of importance to Local Governments:

- An additional \$61.6 million is provided over the forward estimates period to address demand for **Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH)**.
  - This includes \$40.9 million to acquire new dwellings and purchase land for future construction and \$19.7 million to refurbish 133 existing GROH properties.
  - \$1.1 million will also be spent on a comprehensive review and reform of the GROH program.
- \$11.3 million is provided over 2022-23 to 2024-25 (jointly funded by the State and Commonwealth Governments) for infrastructure projects that will increase the **State's organic waste processing capacity**.
- \$81.7 million is allocated to upgrade and maintain the State's **emergency radio network** and equipment used by frontline officers including police officers and firefighters.
- \$24.4 million has been provided to permanently appoint 29 dedicated **disaster recovery officers**.
- An additional \$175 million will be spent in 2024-25 (jointly funded by the Commonwealth and State Governments) to continue **safety treatments on regional roads** to reduce run-off crashes.
- Over 2022-23 and 2023-24, an additional \$20.7 million will be spent on the **regional airfares cap**.
- An additional \$52.5 million for **Family and Domestic Violence services** in metropolitan and regional Western Australia.
- \$24.4 million is provided over 2022-23 to 2026-27 to implement initiatives approved as part of **Planning Reform Phase Two**.
  - This includes the centralised assessment of Development Contributions Plans, implementing Development Assessment Panel Reforms and the establishment of a permanent determination pathway for State and regionally significant developments.

The Budget also contains estimates for regulated fees and charges:

- Street lighting tariffs are projected to increase by 4.8% across the forward estimates, well below Western Power's 43.85% proposal.
- On May 17, the ERA approved a 7.5% increase in the network component of the streetlight tariff for 2023-24, in line with their forecast of the average increase in network charges.

#### **COMMENT:**

##### Federal Budget

For Local Governments, the Federal Budget retained its commitment to a number of important funding programs. However, there was little by way of new spending announcements.

It is disappointing the Government did not deliver on its commitment to a fair and reasonable increase in Financial Assistance Grants. This year, \$3.1 billion has been provided for Financial Assistance Grants funding, with WA to receive \$376.9 million. Financial Assistance Grants now represent 0.5% of total Commonwealth Tax revenue, down from 0.52% in 2022-23.

The Government has indicated that it will continue to work with states in relation to the financial sustainability of the Local Government sector, including advancing 75 per cent of funding “earlier than would usually occur”.

#### State Budget

WALGA was pleased that the State Budget directed funding towards a number of important areas which were identified by Local Governments through the State Budget Submission and other ongoing policy and advocacy work.

In particular, the State Budget which contained funding for a number of important areas identified by the sector, including funding for the Urban Greening Grants Program, Government Regional Officers Housing and the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund.

WALGA was disappointed no additional funding was allocated to the Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) Program. The program is designed to bolster Local Government emergency management capability to support their communities in the preparation, response and recovery from emergency events such as bushfires and flooding.

In coming weeks, WALGA will commence planning for its 2024-25 State Budget Submission.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC note the update on the 2023-24 Federal and State Budgets and impacts on Local Government.**

#### **RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: *Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas***

**Seconded: *Mr Kevin Hannagan, Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku***

---

**Carried**

## **8.6 Update on the Commencement of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

**That State Council note the update on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021.**

#### **IN BRIEF:**

- The *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* (ACH Act), which replaces the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*, comes into effect on 1 July 2023.
- Since 2018, WALGA has undertaken extensive consultation and communication with the sector in relation to the development of the ACH Act, and undertaken advocacy on behalf of the sector, including three State Council endorsed submissions during the 2022 Co-Design process.
- WALGA's advocacy resulted in significant improvements to the activity categories, with consideration now given to many every day and emergency works that Local Governments undertake.
- WALGA's 2023-24 State Budget Submission called for funding for the establishment and ongoing functioning of the new ACH system with respect to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Council, Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services (LACHS) and Local Governments.
- The WALGA President has written to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, requesting additional support for Local Governments in the implementation of the new legislation.
- In May and June 2023 the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) is delivering education workshops throughout the State to support implementation of the new legislation, including a Local Government specific session co-hosted with WALGA on 10 May.
- WALGA will monitor the impact of the ACH Act on Local Governments and will continue to advocate for ongoing support to enhance Local Government knowledge and capability with respect to implementing the new legislation.

#### **ATTACHMENT:**

- [Letter from WALGA President to the Minister for Education, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests, 1 June 2023](#)
- [WALGA ACH Act Submissions](#)

#### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

WALGA's existing [Advocacy Position](#):

##### **3.1.4 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 and South West Native Title Settlement**

*WALGA acknowledges Noongar people as the traditional owners of the South West Region.*

*Local Government is supportive of conserving and protecting the State's Aboriginal cultural heritage. WALGA supports the introduction of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 which will provide a modern framework for the recognition, protection, conservation and preservation of Aboriginal cultural heritage and recognises the fundamental importance of Aboriginal cultural heritage to Aboriginal people.*

*The State Government must ensure that:*

- 1. The legislation balances the need to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage with the requirement for Local Government to undertake activities in a timely and affordable manner;*
- 2. The implementation and ongoing operation of the legislative system for the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage is adequately resourced to ensure that all parties have the capacity, capability and resources to discharge their statutory obligations;*
- 3. Support is provided to Local Governments to ensure that they have the resources, capacity and capability to comply with a complex legislative framework;*
- 4. Local Governments have the ability to deliver essential infrastructure works and emergency activities efficiently and effectively in order to maintain public safety;*
- 5. regional local Aboriginal people are actively engaged in the Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services (LACHS) groups; and*
- 6. The various Prescribed Body Corporates (PBCs) be required to actively seek out local regional members to be included in the consultation and decision making process.*

**BACKGROUND:**

The ACH Act replaces the current *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* from 1 July 2023. The ACH Act will provide a contemporary legislative framework for the identification, protection, and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage across WA. While Aboriginal cultural heritage is already protected under the current 1972 legislation, the main difference in the ACH Act is with respect to the approvals process for undertaking works that impact Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Key features of the ACH Act include:

- An updated definition of Aboriginal cultural heritage;
- New structures for the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage, including Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services (LACHS) as a central point of contact for proponents, and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Council (ACH Council) to oversee the system;
- A tiered land use assessment and approvals system that focuses on consultation and agreement making between Traditional Owners and land users:
  - This is based around the classification of [activities into tiers](#), depending on the level of ground disturbance;
  - Each tier has a corresponding process, and activities are classified as tier 1, tier 2, tier 3, or exempt;
  - Land users will be required to negotiate agreements with Traditional Owners for any activities considered medium to high ground disturbance that may harm Aboriginal cultural heritage;
  - Activities involving minimal or low ground disturbance will benefit from a streamlined approval pathway, encouraging proponents to avoid or minimise impacts;
- The establishment of an online Aboriginal cultural heritage directory of information and documents relevant to Aboriginal cultural heritage (expected to go live on 1 July);
- Provisions for the establishment of Protected Areas; and
- The establishment of new penalties and offences for breaches of the ACH Act.

Since 2018, WALGA has undertaken the following advocacy and capacity building activities in relation to the development of the ACH Act:

- Developed five State Council endorsed submissions – most recently WALGA’s Phase Three submission which was endorsed by State Council on 23 December 2022. WALGA’s submissions to the 2022 co-design process can be viewed [here](#).
- DPLH Director General Anthony Kannis and staff presenting to State Council in September 2022.
- Provision of formal feedback to DPLH twice via correspondence and a survey response.
- Co-delivered 10 place-based online workshops to contribute to the preliminary work in developing the activity categories in 2021.
- Convened the Local Government Aboriginal Heritage Reference Group, which has included representation from 26 Local Governments.
- Co-delivered five information sessions and webinars with DPLH to facilitate consultation with, and provide information to, Local Governments.
- Advocated for funding for the establishment and ongoing functioning of the new Aboriginal heritage system, with respect to the ACH Council, Local ACH Services (LACHS) and Local Governments in the [2023-24 WALGA Budget Submission](#) and meetings with the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

On 10 May 2023, WALGA and DPLH co-hosted an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Education Session for the sector. The session was attended by 80 Local Government representatives from across the State. The [presentation](#) and [recording](#) of the workshop are available for Local Governments to access.

Throughout May and June 2023, DPHL is undertaking education workshops throughout the State to support implementation of the new legislation. Sessions being held in late June include Albany, Carnarvon, and Merredin. Local Governments can register to attend [here](#).

In May 2023 DPLH engaged a consultant to undertake an ACH demand analysis survey, which WALGA shared with Local Governments. 38 Local Governments responded to the survey, which demonstrated that the sector is experiencing significant uncertainty with respect to understanding the implications of

the new ACH Act. Concerns raised related to uncertainty about activity categories, increased costs, resourcing and capability gaps in Local Government, delays, impacts to grant funding timeframes, high demand for consultants, lack of training resources, and lack of established LACHS upon commencement at 1 July.

### **Comment**

WALGA's advocacy on ACH has highlighted that the ACH Act needs to balance the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage with the requirement for Local Government to deliver essential infrastructure works and emergency activities efficiently and effectively to maintain public safety and comply with their numerous other legislative responsibilities. Conversations around the activity categories were a key theme of the consultation sessions, reflective of minimal consideration of the works undertaken regularly by Local Government, such as maintenance works, early in the co-design process.

WALGA's advocacy resulted in significant improvements to the activity categories, with consideration now given to many every day and emergency works that Local Governments undertake. This includes the exemption of activities such as:

- Maintaining existing infrastructure that does not involve disturbance to ground beyond that which was disturbed during the construction;
- Maintenance of waterways and coastlines to rectify accretion and erosion of natural material; and
- An emergency management activity intended to prevent imminent loss of life, prejudice to the safety, or harm to the health, of persons or animals.

WALGA's submissions highlighted the need for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Council and Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services and Local Governments to be adequately resourced to enable them to respond to applications for permits and management plans pursuant to the new legislation. [The State Government has announced \\$77million investment](#) into the ACH system which will further support the successful implementation of the ACH Act.

The WALGA President wrote to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs on 1 June 2023 to call for support for Local Governments through the provision of a dedicated Local Government ACH Act Facilitator, training, guidance materials, additional DPLH regional officers and an extension of grant funding project timeframes.

### **GVROC COMMENT:**

In discussion on this item the GVROC made a number of comments to be noted by WALGA and the State Council in relation to this item:

- The GVROC fully support the need for the provision of a dedicated WALGA Local Government ACH Act Facilitator, training, guidance materials, additional DPLH regional officers and an extension of grant funding project timeframes.
- Given that there is no native title determination for the Central Goldfields region, the GVROC are concerned this will cause significant issues and delays in any ACH assessments and approvals in this part of the region.
- Most of the Aboriginal Corporations and Organisations in the region are already operating at full capacity and placing these additional requirements on them without adequate resourcing and funding will delay assessment and approval processes down.
- The GVROC would like DPLH to provide a list of all existing Aboriginal Heritage sites currently determined and recorded in each LGAs area of jurisdiction for use in determining future developments and requirements for assessment.
- GVROC LGAs are concerned that given there is only a week before the requirements come into effect on 1 July 2023, that there are no LARCs currently operating in the region and the time delays that this may cause on current planned developments.
- The new requirements put additional workload on already stretched regional LGAs with no consideration by the State Government to fund the costs of this to local government. GVROC would like consideration of funding being provided to LGAs going forward.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC note the update on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021.**

**RESOLUTION:**                    **Moved: Cr Peter Grundy, Shire of Wiluna**  
   **Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie**

---

**Carried**



## **8.7 State Award Variations Impacting on Local Governments**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

**That State Council note the update on the State award variation applications currently before the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission.**

#### **IN BRIEF:**

- On 1 January 2023, a majority of Local Governments and Regional Councils were required to transition from the Federal industrial relations (IR) system to the State IR system due to a change in State legislation.
- Both the Federal and State IR systems have awards covering Local Government employers and employees. Awards are documents which set out the minimum terms and conditions of employment for a particular industry or occupation.
- There are a number of State awards that cover Local Governments however these awards contain outdated and unclear language, are very difficult to consistently interpret and are not reflective of the needs of a modern Local Government workforce.
- This is unlike the Federal Local Government Industry Award 2020 (Federal Award) which has been consistently reviewed and updated since 2009.
- Unfortunately, the State Government and the unions did not support a legislated State award modernisation process before Local Governments were mandated to operate in the State IR system. Further, the transitional legislation does not provide for the Federal Award to permanently transition to the State IR system.
- The Western Australian Municipal, Administrative, Clerical and Services Union of Employees (commonly also known as the WA Branch of the ASU) ([ASU](#)) made an application in February 2023 to amend the State Local Government awards without employer consultation.
- Further, the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission (WAIRC) is reviewing the scope clauses of a number of State awards which potentially cover Local Governments, in addition to the two State Local Government awards.
- WALGA has commenced representing the sector and individually named Local Governments in the various applications before the WAIRC regarding proposed amendments to the State awards.
- This item for noting provides an update on the status of these applications and outlines the engagement methods WALGA will be using to seek feedback from the sector on these important employment issues.

#### **BACKGROUND AND COMMENT:**

##### Amendments to the two State Local Government awards

1. On 27 February 2023 the ASU filed two applications to amend the Local Government State awards, namely the:
  - (a) [Local Government Officers' \(Western Australia\) Award 2021](#) (LGO Award); and
  - (b) [Municipal Employees \(Western Australia\) Award 2021](#) (ME Award)(together the 'State LG Awards').
2. These ASU applications are primarily seeking to introduce *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth) terms and conditions into the State LG Awards and add some other additional employment conditions.
3. WALGA believes that the current ASU claims before the WAIRC are just the beginning of a full award amendment process. Noting that the ASU has canvassed at least two further award amendment applications including one to amend the classification and pay structure of the State LG Awards.
4. In addition, WALGA believes that the current ASU applications have created an opportunity for the Local Government sector to actively participate in an award modernisation/amendment process which is vital to the sector for several reasons, including:
  - (a) The State LG Awards contain the minimum standards for the Local Government sector which may form the basis for Local Government workforces' terms and conditions or industrial agreement negotiations – and therefore any amendments may have an impact on wage costs.

- (b) The State LG Awards have not been significantly amended for some 24 years and contain definitions, occupation titles and terms that are no longer relevant to current Local Government workforces.
  - (c) The State LG Awards contain terms and conditions which were removed or amended as part of the Fair Work Commission award modernisation process which created the Federal Award in 2009.
  - (d) Although transitional Local Governments<sup>15</sup> with new State instruments<sup>16</sup> do not have to currently apply the State LG Awards – this status will change if a new agreement is negotiated or from 1 January 2025<sup>17</sup>.
  - (e) The enhanced bargaining power of the unions in the State industrial relations system.
5. In 2022 WALGA sought feedback from the Employee Relations (ER) Sector Reference Group which confirmed the sector's view that the State LG Awards require significant amendment and updating.
6. A collective employer approach to State award modernisation is vital to be effective in negotiations with the unions and this can be facilitated by the WALGA ER team which has daily contact with human resources (HR) and industrial relations (IR) professionals and managers across the sector.
7. Further, the WALGA ER team has significant experience and history of representing Local Governments in the Federal award modernisation process and continues to review all Fair Work Commission applications impacting on the Federal Award.
8. After writing to Local Governments to seek their feedback on the ASU's initial applications, WALGA prepared and filed a preliminary response with the WAIRC on 31 March 2023 which requests that the WAIRC program a State LG Awards modernisation/amendment process. WALGA ER representatives will be representing Local Governments in the WAIRC when a conference is scheduled in July 2023.

#### Amendments to other State awards impacting on Local Governments

9. The recent amendments to the *Industrial Relations Act 1979 (WA)* (IR Act) provide the WAIRC with powers to amend the scope of private sector awards on its own motions under section 37C of the IR Act.
10. On 20 April 2023 WALGA was notified by the WAIRC and by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety that the WAIRC was reviewing the scope clauses of a number of State awards which may impact on Local Governments.
11. The State awards currently being reviewed under section 37C of the IR Act which are relevant to Local Governments include the Cleaners and Caretakers Award, 1969 (CC Award), the Restaurant, Tearoom and Catering Workers' Award (RTC Award) and the Metal Trades (General) Award (MTG Award).
12. It has also been flagged with WALGA that there are a number of other State awards relevant to Local Governments which will be the subject of a scope clause review in the near future.
13. The CC Award, the RTC Award and the MTG Award refers to Local Government and includes a handful of Local Governments as a party to those awards. This has resulted in potential dual coverage for certain Local Government occupations and a lack of clarity of State award coverage for employees.
14. On 31 May 2023 WALGA attended a Conference at the WAIRC to discuss proposed amendments to the scope of the CC Award, the RTC Award and MTG Award. Following the Conference WALGA has been consulting with the Local Governments that are named parties to these awards.

---

<sup>15</sup> **Transitional Local Governments** means the Local Governments and Regional Councils that are named in Schedule 4 to the [Industrial Relations \(General\) Regulations 1997 \(WA\)](#) (IR General Regulations) and which were required to operate in the State industrial relations system from 1 January 2023.

<sup>16</sup> **new State instrument** is defined in the [Industrial Relations Act 1979 \(WA\)](#) and includes the Local Government Industry Award 2020 (old federal award) and a Fair Work Commission enterprise agreement if either applied to a declared employer or employee before the transition.

<sup>17</sup> Due to the operation of regulation 8 of the IR General Regulations.

15. Based on initial sector feedback, WALGA will be seeking to remove circumstances of possible dual coverage and consolidate Local Government industry conditions. This will be done with the aim of ensuring Local Government employees are covered by as few State awards as possible to mitigate disputes over award coverage and interpretation, union demarcations and potential compliance issues.
16. WALGA will continue to consult with those named Local Governments and the sector and prepare submissions and advocate in the WAIRC regarding the proposed award amendments.

WALGA's sector engagement strategy

17. WALGA is establishing a new State Award Working Group comprised of Local Government employees with responsibility for managing employment conditions. For example, HR and IR professionals or relevant managers. A key priority of the Group will be to raise anticipated issues to work towards sector solutions.
18. The purpose of the State Award Working Group is for WALGA to seek feedback from the group about:
  - (a) The unions current and future claims to amend the State LG Awards.
  - (b) The amendments to the State LG Awards that are required by Local Government employers – including to develop an employer log of claims.
  - (c) The standard terms and conditions of employment in the Local Government sector.
  - (d) The constraints of the Local Government sector. For example, a Local Government's capacity to pay.
19. The other groups WALGA will consult include:
  - (a) Local Governments that are named respondents to any applications filed with the WAIRC relating to State awards
  - (b) CEOs
  - (c) HR Managers
  - (d) ER Sector Reference Group
  - (e) Growth Alliance Perth & Peel Group
20. The methods WALGA will use to engage with the sector include:
  - (a) Email alerts titled 'State Award Modernisation Alerts'
  - (b) Surveying
  - (c) Webinars, in person meetings and events
  - (d) Emails and phone calls to CEOs and key HR contacts
  - (e) Updates on the WALGA website
  - (f) The WALGA People and Culture Network LinkedIn Group
  - (g) Preparation of regular State Council Agenda items and presentation at a future State Council Strategic Forum.
21. When engaging with the relevant stakeholder groups WALGA ER will provide its professional views on award terms, proposed award drafting and the application of the IR Act and other State employment legislation to enable stakeholders to provide informed feedback on proposed amendments to the State LG Awards.
22. WALGA ER will consult as widely as possible. However, if there are divergent views on an issue WALGA ER will advocate for the position that is supported by the majority of the sector.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC note the update on the State award variation applications currently before the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission.**

**RESOLUTION:** **Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**  
**Seconded: Cr Peter Grundy, Shire of Wiluna**

---

**Carried**

## **8.8 Review of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007: Stage 3 Review**

### **IN BRIEF:**

- Consultation for Stage 3 of the review of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (BAM Act) has commenced, with feedback sought on potential biosecurity reform opportunities.
- WALGA has developed a draft Submission for sector feedback by 26 June.
- Zones are asked to consider and provide feedback on the proposals in the discussion paper and WALGA's draft Submission.
- Local Governments are also strongly encouraged to provide feedback directly to the Review Panel via the online portal by 30 June 2023.
- Local Governments are invited to attend a WALGA webinar on the proposed reforms, which will include a presentation from the Chair of the Independent BAM Act Review Panel, Kaylene Gulich, at 10.30am, Wednesday 14 June.

### **ATTACHMENT:**

- WALGA Draft submission – BAM Act Review Stage 3 June 2023

### **BACKGROUND:**

The first 10-year [statutory review](#) of the [Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007](#) (BAM Act) is currently underway; this is a key opportunity for Local Government to influence the how post-border biosecurity is managed in Western Australia. The [Independent Panel](#) undertaking the review, is using a three-stage engagement process.

**Stage 1** (closed) - Used open submissions and a survey to identify major themes and issues. To inform comment on this stage of the review WALGA prepared a [Discussion Paper](#) which includes 11 key biosecurity themes and related recommendations reflecting issues raised by Local Government, and those identified in the [Auditor General's 2013 and 2020 Reports](#).

**Stage 2** (closed) - Stage 1 identified the key themes and stage 2 provided an opportunity to focus on these issues, which included:

- principles to underpin WA's biosecurity, including biosecurity in all contexts and shared responsibility.
- legal foundations of WA's biosecurity, including prioritising pests, weeds and diseases, and enabling industry and community action.
- planning, coordinating and resourcing WA's biosecurity system, including responsibilities and timing.
- community-led pest and weed management, including the Declared Pest Rate and Recognised Biosecurity Groups.

**Stage 3** – (now open) A [Discussion Paper](#) sets out nine priority reform areas, and identifies 21 opportunities to clarify, strengthen and support a strengthened biosecurity system in WA. The nine priority reform areas are:

1. Clarifying the role of the BAM Act
2. Working together to protect WA
3. Planning and reporting- vital to a better biosecurity system
4. Prioritising pests and diseases
5. Emergency powers- a necessary precaution
6. Compensation can boost biosecurity efforts
7. Enabling industries to act
8. Community-led pest management
9. Compliance with WA's biosecurity laws.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

#### [4.5 Post Border Biosecurity](#)

*Western Australia's economy, environment and the community are facing increasing challenges posed by already established and new pests, weeds and diseases. Local Government has a significant role in biosecurity management, as land managers and regulators, and therefore has an interest in ensuring that Western Australia's biosecurity system, including control of declared pests, is effective and appropriately resourced. WALGA considers significant changes to the operation of the State's*

biosecurity system, including the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007, are required to ensure these risks can be managed now and into the future.

To be effective the Western Australian biosecurity system must:

1. Take a transparent approach to the notion of 'shared responsibility' by ensuring that:
  - a. The respective roles and responsibilities of Commonwealth, State and Local Government, industry, landholders, community groups and individuals are agreed and clearly articulated; and
  - b. There is improved pest management on State Government managed land and a formalised structure for State Government agencies with responsibilities for biosecurity management to work together and coordinate their activities.
2. Be underpinned by a strategic framework, developed in collaboration with stakeholders, that:
  - a. Establishes priorities for biosecurity threats in geographically defined regions, sets measurable targets and guides investment in biosecurity activities; and
  - b. Is regularly evaluated and reported on.
3. Have a greater focus on environmental biosecurity, through the increased recognition and management of pest species that have significant ecological impacts.
4. Be adequately, sustainably and equitably funded:
  - a. The appropriateness and effectiveness of the Declared Pest Rate (DPR) and Recognised Biosecurity Group (RBG) model as key mechanisms for the management of widespread and established declared pests should be reviewed and alternate mechanisms considered;
  - b. Increased and more equitable distribution of funding for every step in the biosecurity continuum and adequate resourcing for all stakeholders, including Local Government; and
  - c. The provision of funding for declared pest management in metropolitan areas.
5. Ensure that the criteria and process for listing of declared pests is evidence-based, timely and transparent.
6. Have an increased emphasis on compliance through education and enforcement activity, to ensure land managers are aware of their legislative responsibilities and are supported to implement biosecurity actions.
7. Facilitate the use of new technologies, strategic monitoring, and the establishment of data management systems to inform biosecurity investment decisions and support adaptive management.
8. Improve the community's understanding, awareness and action in relation to biosecurity to assist with threat surveillance and timely response to incursions.

**COMMENT:**

WALGA has developed a Draft Submission (attached) for consideration by the sector and is requesting feedback by **COB Monday 26 June** (via [environment@walga.asn.au](mailto:environment@walga.asn.au)). WALGA is hosting a webinar regarding Stage 3 of the Review, at 10.30am, Wednesday 14 June, with a presentation from the Chair of the Independent Review Panel, Kaylene Gulich. Register [here](#).

WALGA requests that the Zone consider the Draft Submission and provide feedback to WALGA on:

- The top priority reform areas (from the nine listed) for the Zone
- Any key reform areas which have been missed
- Feedback on WALGA's comments regarding the 21 Opportunities identified.

Local Governments are strongly encouraged to provide feedback directly to the Review Panel by Friday, 30 June 2023 through the online survey portal [here](#).

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC note the WALGA Draft submission BAM Act Review Stage 3 June 2023 and provide feedback through the GVROC submission being prepared, which will then be forwarded to WALGA by 26 June 2023.**

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: Cr Peter Grundy, Shire of Wiluna**  
**Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie**

---

**Carried**

## 9. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Policy Team Reports

The following provides an outline of the key activities of the Policy Teams since the last State Council meeting.

### Policy Teams

#### 9.1 Environment and Waste Policy Team Report

The Environment and Waste Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- Climate change
- Native vegetation and biodiversity
- Biosecurity
- Water resources
- Sustainability
- Waste management

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the Environment and Waste Policy Team at its meetings held on 2 May and 31 May 2023.

### Matters for State Council Decision

#### 1.1 Landfill Bans

The Policy Team considered and recommended State Councils endorsement of the proposed Policy Position on Landfill Bans (see [Agenda Item 7.4](#)).

#### 1.2 Matters Referred by Zones

Avon-Midland Country Zone referred comments regarding clearing permits and recommending a fee to lodge an appeal against the grant, conditions or amendment of a clearing permit. The Policy Team noted the recommendation from the Zone but decided that WALGA should not advocate for the introduction of a fee in relation to clearing permit appeals. The Policy Team noted WALGA's policy priority to support Local Governments to deliver on their statutory obligations related to native vegetation clearing, including development of a strategic biodiversity offset framework as part of the implementation of the State Native Vegetation Policy. WALGA provided additional feedback to the Zone which is included in the Zone Status report.

The North Metropolitan Zone requested a report on the progress of community batteries from WALGA. WALGA has provided the Zone with information on Round 1 of the [ARENA Community Battery Funding](#). The Zone has been encouraged to invite Western Power and Synergy, who are undertaking community battery installation across WA, to attend the next Zone meeting to directly address the issues raised.

#### 1.3 Updates provided

The following updates were noted:

- **Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) EV charging infrastructure funding application:** WALGA is finalising the Expression of Interest to submit to ARENA for consideration at its 7 June Panel meeting (Note: this has now been lodged). This project:
  - Has the commitment of 22 Local Governments, representing 58% of the Western Australian population, to accelerate the transition to BEVs.
  - Will require 112 AC and 35 DC dual outlet chargers.
  - Will see the purchase of 121 light BEVs, and software for charging infrastructure, at a cost of \$7.11 million, by the 22 participating Local Governments.
  - Will accelerate these Local Governments transition to BEV's by an average of 2 years and provide the infrastructure to assist Local Governments into the medium and long term phases of their transition plans. The participating Local Governments have a fleet of over 900 vehicles.
  - Has secured a \$1 million State Government funding commitment to this project, which has been used to reduce the funding requested from ARENA.
  - Is seeking ARENA funding of \$4.22 million, to contribute towards the purchase and installation of the charging infrastructure.

- Has a total project budget of \$12.128 million and if funded, will be implemented from January 2024 to June 2025.
- **Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act (BAM Act) Review** has developed a draft submission on the proposed reforms for sector feedback **by 26 June 2023**. The draft submission provides analysis against the [WALGA Biosecurity advocacy position](#), endorsed by State Council in December 2023 and on anticipated benefits or issues of the proposed reforms. The draft submission will be provided as an item for Zones' consideration in the June round of meetings. As well as providing comments to WALGA, Local Governments are being strongly encouraged to [respond directly](#) to DPIRD by 30 June.
- **Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB)**: The quarantine zone for the PSHB has expanded and now covers the majority of the metropolitan area. To ensure Local Governments are informed regarding the potential implications of the PSHB and their legislative requirements, WALGA is hosted an online information session on Tuesday 9 May. WALGA is also engaging with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to ensure the sector is informed, and engaged, ahead of any further changes to the quarantine zone.
- **Draft State Waste Infrastructure Plan**: The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation has released the draft [Western Australia State Waste Infrastructure Plan](#) for comment, with consultation open until 23 June 2023. WALGA hosted an online information session on Wednesday 31 May for Local Governments to provide feedback on a draft Submission.
- **Urban Forest**: In 2022 WALGA, through the Urban Forest Working Group, developed an Issues Paper: *Local Government Approaches to Tree Retention*.
  - The Issues Paper identified the key challenges faced by Local Government using existing measures for tree retention and explored opportunities for further measures. In July 2022, a briefing was provided to the Environment and Waste Policy Team on the key legal issues identified. WALGA has recently completed a procurement process for the legal advice on these issues, appointing McLeods, and anticipates provision of the advice within 3 months.
  - Local Governments will be able to 'buy-in' to the legal advice for a nominal fee. Based on the success of the coastal planning legal advice project, WALGA anticipates at least 50 Local Governments will purchase the advice, representing a \$1m saving for the sector compared to each Local Government seeking the advice individually.
  - The findings of the advice will be used to inform WALGA's ongoing advocacy around urban forest, assist Local Governments in updating their planning frameworks to improve protections for existing significant trees.

At the meeting on 31 May 2023, the Environment and Waste Policy Team considered an item on updating the Urban Forest Policy advocacy position in conjunction with the People and Place Policy Team (see [Agenda Item 7.1](#)).

**RESOLUTION:** **Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**  
**Seconded: Mr Kevin Hannagan, Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku**

---

**Carried**

## **9.2 Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team Report**

The Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- Employee relations
- Governance
- Strategy and Association Governance
- Training
- Regional Capacity Building / Local Government Reform

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the Governance and Organisational Services (GOS) Policy Team at its meetings held on 12 April and 3 May 2023.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council:**

1. **retain, without amendment, Advocacy Positions:**
  - (a) **2.1.10 Recovery of Rates and Service Charges; and**
  - (b) **2.5.31 Annual Electors' General Meetings;**
2. **delete Advocacy Position 2.5.25 Attendance at Council Meetings by Technology; and**

**3. notes that the Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team endorsed the WALGA 2023 State Wage Case submission.**

**1. Matters for State Council Decision**

The GOS Policy Team provides recommendations regarding three [Advocacy Positions](#) for State Council's decision.

**1.1 Advocacy Position 2.1.10 Recovery of Rates and Service Charges**

Policy Team Comment: Amendment of s.6.56 of the *Local Government Act 1995* has not been addressed in the current Local Government Amendment Bill 2023 and the matter is therefore unresolved. **Recommend State Council retain Advocacy Position 2.1.10 Recovery of Rates and Service Charges**

**1.2 Advocacy Position 2.5.25 Attendance at Council Meetings by Technology**

Policy Team Comment: This advocacy position has been achieved through the *Local Government (Administration) Amendment Regulations 2022*, implemented in November 2022, which included provisions that enable Council Members to individually attend by electronic means up to half the council or committee meetings held within any 12 month period. **Recommend State Council delete Advocacy Position 2.5.25 Attendance at Council Meetings by Technology**

**1.3 Advocacy Position 2.5.31 Annual Electors' General Meetings**

Policy Team Comment: The Minister for Local Government has not included or proposed a provision in the current Local Government Act Reform proposals that would give effect to this advocacy position. **Recommend State Council retain Advocacy Position 2.5.31 Annual Elector's General Meetings**

**2. Matters for State Council Noting**

The GOS Policy Team endorsed the WALGA 2023 State Wage Case submission at its meeting held on 3 May, subject to the submission including an example of the street lighting costs.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC supports the Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team Recommendations as presented.**

**RESOLUTION:** **Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**  
**Seconded: Cr Ian Mickel, Shire of Esperance**

---

**Carried**

**9.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report**

The Infrastructure Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- Roads and paths
- Road safety
- Transport
- Freight
- Utilities (including telecommunications and underground power)

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the Infrastructure Policy Team at its meeting held on 3 May 2023.

**1. Matters for State Council Decision**

Nil.

**2. Matters for State Council Noting**

The Infrastructure Policy Team noted the expanding number of activities and prioritised:

- Developing effective responses to barriers and challenges to achieving timely and on-budget deliver of funded road projects in conjunction with Regional Road Groups;



- Revising and providing updated tools, model policies and advice to Local Governments concerning heavy vehicle cost recovery, including options available to Councils considering extending access to concessional mass vehicles;
- Improving the implementation and effectiveness of Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, noting that there are currently three on-going inquiries or reviews initiated by the Commonwealth, and a need to resolve implementation issues with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services;
- Addressing management of road works during Total Fire Bans.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC notes the matters considered by the Infrastructure Policy Team**

**RESOLUTION:**                    **Moved: *Mr Kevin Hannagan, Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku***  
   **Seconded: *Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas***

---

**Carried**

**9.4 People and Place Policy Team Report**

The People and Place Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- Community
- Emergency Management
- Planning and Building

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the People and Place Policy Team at its meetings held on 3 May and 31 May 2023.

**1. Matters for State Council Decision**

At the meeting on 3 May, the People and Place Policy Team Policy Team noted the request from the Goldfields Esperance Country Zone on Advocacy on Building Issues and endorsed actions to be undertaken by WALGA Secretariat.

At the meeting on 31 May, the People and Place Policy Team:

- In conjunction with the Environment and Waste Policy Team, endorsed a new Urban Forest advocacy position for consideration by State Council (see [Agenda Item 7.1](#));
- Endorsed the WALGA submission on Consistent Local Planning Schemes and an updated Planning Reform advocacy position for consideration by State Council via the Flying Minute process;
- Noted a matter referred from Peel Country Zone on the establishment of a Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan (CHRMAP) Taskforce and endorsed actions to be undertaken by WALGA Secretariat, including the preparation of a discussion paper on the matter; and
- Endorsed the WALGA submission to the Department of Communities on Reforming WA Disability Legislation (see [Agenda Item 7.3](#)).

**2. Matters for State Council Noting**

At the meeting on 3 May, the People and Place Policy Team:

- Received a presentation from the Planning and Building Team on Non-Residential Car Parking Requirements – Draft Interim Guidance;
- Received a presentation from the Planning and Building Team on Local Government Planning and Building Performance for the 2022-23 reporting year (see [Agenda Item 9.3](#));
- Received an update from the Planning and Building Team on WALGA's work on planning fees and charges; and
- Received an update from the Planning and Building Team on Urban Forest.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC notes the matters considered by the People and Place Policy Team.**

**RESOLUTION:**                    **Moved: *Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas***  
   **Seconded: *Mr Jim Epis, Shire of Leonora***

---

**Carried**

## **9.5 Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

**That State Council note the resolutions of the 19 April 2023 Municipal Waste Advisory Council.**

#### **IN BRIEF:**

- This item summaries the proceedings of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) meeting held on Wednesday, 19 April.
- Copies of MWAC Agendas and Minutes are available from WALGA staff on request.

#### **Matters for Decision**

##### **Submission on WA Container Deposit Scheme Expansion**

A [Discussion Paper](#) has been released on expanding the scope of the eligible containers covered by the WA Container Deposit Scheme. The scope of the proposed expansion includes glass wine and spirit bottles, and beverage containers up to 3L.

The draft Submission supports the expansion of the Scheme and proposes that plain and milk alternatives also be included. The Draft Submission was circulated for Local Government consultation during March, with general support received. WALGA has also been appointed to a Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Working Group focusing on the expansion of the Scheme.

#### **MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MOTION**

**That the Municipal Waste Advisory Council endorse the Submission on *Discussion Paper: Container Deposit Scheme – Expanding the Scope of Eligible Beverage Containers.***

**Moved:** Cr Price  
**Seconded:** Cr Johnson

**CARRIED**

#### **Policy Position Landfill Bans**

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation released a [Consultation Paper](#) on the proposed e-waste landfill ban. The State Government made an election commitment to deliver a state-wide ban by 2024, with the aim of improving management and recycling of e-waste produced by households and businesses across the State.

A Submission on DWER's Consultation Paper was circulated for State Council and MWAC endorsement out of session following Local Government engagement. A key recommendation of the Submission is that any material subject to landfill bans be covered by a fully effective product stewardship scheme prior to ban implementation. This item is included in the State Council [Agenda item 7.4](#).

#### **MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MOTION**

**That the Municipal Waste Advisory Council endorse the Policy Position:**

***Landfill bans are not supported in the absence of effective product stewardship schemes, or other funding mechanisms, for products which would be subject to the ban.***

**Moved:** Cr Price  
**Seconded:** Cr Johnson

**CARRIED**

### **Matters for Discussion**

MWAC discussed the following matters:

- Release of the draft [State Waste Infrastructure Plan](#): The draft Plan is open for consultation until 23 June 2023. The draft Plan has been developed to guide decision making for the planning and development of waste infrastructure in Western Australia and focuses on the built waste and recycling infrastructure needed to achieve 2030 State Waste Strategy targets. MWAC provided initial feedback on the Draft to inform the development of the WALGA Submission.
- *Review of Waste Policy Statements*: WALGA has 8 Waste Management related [Policy Statements](#) in place with publication dates ranging from 2003 to 2018. While much of the content is still relevant, the statements need to be reviewed to ensure currency of references and information as well as consistency of approach. The proposed schedule for review was agreed:
  - In progress: Household Hazardous Waste and Waste Management Education (consider revisions June Officer Advisory Group (OAG)/MWAC)
  - Initial Review June OAG/MWAC: Waste management data and information management (consider revisions August OAG/MWAC)
  - Initial Review August OAG/MWAC: Standards for Recycled Organics Applied to Land (consider revisions October OAG/MWAC)
  - Initial Review October OAG/MWAC: Waste Levy Policy statement (consider revisions December OAG/MWAC).
  - Reviewed in 2024: Container Deposit Systems, Extended Producer Responsibility and Waste management legislation.
- Packaging Product Stewardship and national advocacy on flexible plastic recycling.
- WALGA's investigations into e-cigarette disposal options and the regulatory framework for used and disposal of these products and advocacy underway.
- Contingency Planning for waste management, including the development of a Mutual Assistance Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Local Governments and WALGA Preferred Suppliers of waste fleet.
- Waste management and biosecurity, including:
  - working with Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) on undertaking preparedness activities for any disposal requirements resulting from Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), such as landfill capacity and resourcing, logistics and communications as part of a coordinated emergency response.
  - the expansion of the Quarantine Area, for the invasive Polyphagous Shot-hole Borer, impacts 25 Local Government FOGO, GO and verge collections.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC notes the resolutions of the 19 April 2023 Municipal Waste Advisory Council.**

### **RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: Cr Peter Grundy, Shire of Wiluna**

**Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie**

---

**Carried**

## **10. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Organisational Key Activity Reports**

10.1 Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio

10.2 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio

10.3 Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio

10.4 Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio

GVROC COMMENT:

GVROC note the Organisation Key Activity Reports as provided in State Council Agenda Items.

RESOLUTION:                      *Moved: Mr Kevin Hannagan, Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku*  
   *Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas*

---

Carried

## **11. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Policy Forums and Other Reports**

The following provides an outline of the key activities of the Association's Policy Forums that have met since the last State Council meeting.

11.1 President's Report

WALGA Recommendation

That the President's Report for July 2023 be received. (refer to Attachment 5)

11.2 CEO's Report

WALGA Recommendation

That the CEO's Report for July 2023 be received.

11.3 Ex Officio Reports

- The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas is an apology for this meeting.
- LG Professionals President, Annie Riordan, to provide the LG Professionals report to the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC notes the President's and CEO's Reports for July 2023 and the Ex Officio reports as received.

RESOLUTION:                      *Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas*  
   *Seconded: Mr Jim Epis, Shire of Leonora*

---

Carried

<b>12. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – State Council Status Report</b>
---

**12.1 Complete Status Report on State Council Resolutions - To the July 2023 State Council Meeting**

**GVROC COMMENT:**

Additional to the Complete Status Report on State Council Resolutions, **Attachment 6** provides the relevant Goldfields Esperance Country Zone Status Report.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

GVROC notes the Complete State Council Status Report to the July 2023 State Council meeting and the Goldfields Esperance Country Zone Status Report.

**RESOLUTION:**

Moved: *Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie*  
Seconded: *Mr Jim Epis, Shire of Leonora*

---

Carried

### **13. LATE ITEMS as notified, introduced by decision of the Meeting**

The GVROC Chair, Cr Malcolm Cullen gave thanks on behalf of the GVROC to outgoing Shire CEOs, Mr Jim Epis - Shire of Leonora, and Mr Kevin Hannagan - Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku for their time and commitment to the GVROC during their tenure, this being their last attendance at a GVROC meeting.

### **14. FUTURE MEETINGS**

With the continuing and evolving situation of the COVID-19 “Corona Virus” scheduling of future meetings as in person is a watching brief. This will be reviewed at each meeting by GVROC, and decisions made on whether the meetings are held as in person meetings or conducted through Zoom video conferencing.

In noting the above, the following suggested dates in 2023 have been set for the remaining GVROC meetings.

- 28 July 2023 in Kambalda (to be hosted by the Shire of Coolgardie)
- 17-19 September 2023 (Dinner meeting on date tbc aligned with WALGA AGM in Perth)
- 24 November 2023 in Menzies (hosted by the Shire of Menzies)

The following are the WALGA State Council meeting dates in 2023 with suggested GVROC Zoom video conference meeting dates prior to these to inform the GVROC’s representatives attending the meetings with relevant input for State Council Agenda Items:

- 7-8 September 2023 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **25 August 2023**
- 6 December 2023 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **17 November 2023**

### **15. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9:55am.