



Northern Country Zone

MINUTES

20 February 2023

Hosted by the Shire of Mingenew
Mingenew Sports Pavilion
commencing at 10am



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ATTACHMENTS TO THE AGENDA

- Item 3.1: DFES Presentation – Shepherd Report
- Item 3.3: CBH Supply Chain Update
- Item 6.1: Minutes NCZ Flying Minute Meeting 28 November 2022
- Item 6.2.1: West coast Demersal Scalefish Resource Recovery Summary
- Item 7 8: State Council Agenda March 1 2023
- Item 9.3: WALGA President’s Report March 2023
- Item 9.4: Zone Status Report inc. Letter from Anna Bligh to Cr Linda Scott
- Item 10.1.2: Correspondence In
 - a. WALGA Ian Duncan - key outcomes of consultation day on Recommendation 4 of the Shepherd Report
 - b. Shire of Gin Gin - Cr Fewer - comment on key outcomes of consultation day on Recommendation 4 of the Shepherd Report
 - c. WALGA - Flying Minute - ACH Co-Design Phase 3
- Item 10.2: Bank Statements Nov 22/Dec 22/Jan 23
- Item 10.3: DFES Bushfire Regulation Fact Sheet - Off Road
DFES Bushfire Regulation Fact Sheet – Road Work
- Item 11.3.1: DLGSC Update

1. OPENING, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1.1.1 Opening

The Meeting was declared open at 10:07 am.

1.1.2 Acknowledgment of Country

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA acknowledges the Yamatji people, who are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today and pays its respects to their Elders past and present.

1.1.3 Welcome

The Zone President welcomed members and guests and made special note of Mr Shane Love MLA joining the meeting in his new role as Leader of the Opposition.

1.1.4 Announcements

Nil

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

MEMBERS

NB: One Voting Delegate from each Member Council

Shire of Carnamah

Cr Dwayne Woollorton - Deputy President
Mr Rob Paull - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Chapman Valley

Cr Kirilee Warr – President

Shire of Coorow

Cr Moira Girando - President (NCZ Deputy President)
Ms Mia Maxfield - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

City of Greater Geraldton	Cr Jerry Clune - Deputy Mayor Mr Ross McKim - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Irwin	Cr Isabelle Scott - Deputy President Mr Shane Ivers - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Mingenew	Cr Gary Cosgrove - President Mr Matt Fanning - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Morawa	Cr Karen Chappel - President (NCZ President) Mr Scott Wildgoose - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Northampton	Cr Elizabeth (Liz) Sudlow - President Mr Maurice Battilana - Acting Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Perenjori	Cr Chris King
Shire of Three Springs	Cr Chris Connaughton - Deputy President Mr Keith Woodward - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
EXECUTIVE	Ms Dianne Daniels - Executive Officer Mr Nick Sloan - WALGA CEO Mr Ian Duncan – WALGA Executive Manager Infrastructure
INVITED GUESTS	
Member for Moore	Mr Shane Love MLA
Mid West Development Commission	Mr Nils Hay - Chief Executive Officer
Regional Development Midwest Gascoyne	Mr Mark Holdsworth – Director of Regional Development/Executive Officer
Dept of Local Government Sport & Cultural Ind	Mr Craig Vinci - Acting Regional Manager Mid West Gascoyne
Main Roads WA	Ms Janet Hartley-West – Director Ms Louise Adamson - Network Manager Mid West-Gascoyne
DFES Mid West Gascoyne Operations Command	Mr Rick Ryan - Community Emergency Services Manager, Shires of Morawa Murchison Perenjori Yalgoo.
National Emergency Management Agency	Ms Candy Hudson - Recovery Support Officer Pilbara, Gascoyne, Murchison, Mid West
CBH	Ms Kellie Todman - Manager Government and Industry Relations Mr Timothy Roberts - Specialist - Regulatory Approvals

APOLOGIES

Regional Development Mid West Gascoyne	Ms Yvonne Messina – Chair
CBH	Mr Rob Dickie
Member for Geraldton	Ms Lara Dalton
Member for Agricultural Region	Ms Shelley Payne
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Sandra Carr MLC
Member for Agricultural Region	Mr Steve Martin MLC
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Colin de Grussa MLC
Shire of Carnamah	Cr Merle Isbister
Shire of Chapman Valley	Cr Darrell Forth – Deputy President Mr Jamie Criddle - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
City of Greater Geraldton	Mayor Shane Van Styn
Shire of Irwin	Cr Mike Smith – President
Shire of Mingenew	Cr Hellene McTaggart
Shire of Northampton	Cr Robert Horstman - Deputy President
Shire of Perenjori	Cr Jude Sutherland - Deputy President Mr Paul Anderson - Chief Executive officer (non-voting)
Shire of Three Springs	Cr Chris Lane

3. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Attachment: Presentation – Shepherd Report

Mr Rick Ryan Community Emergency Services Manager
Morawa, Murchison, Perenjori, Yalgoo

A status report on the discussions and findings from the Recommendation 4 Working Group meeting(s) was presented to members, with time given for questions after the presentation.

3.2 National Emergency Management Agency

Ms Candy Hudson Recovery Support Officer - Pilbara, Gascoyne, Murchison and Mid West WA

Ms Hudson gave a brief introduction of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and her role within the organisation to members.

3.3 CBH Group

Attachment: CBH Supply Chain Update

Ms Kellie Todman Manager Government and Industry Relations
Mr Timothy Roberts Specialist – Regulatory Approvals

Ms Todman gave a presentation on CBH's 5/10 year network plan and some feedback on the season just passed and then called for questions.

4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillors must declare to the Zone President any potential conflict of interest they have in a matter before the Zone as soon as they become aware of it. Councillors and deputies may be directly or indirectly associated with some recommendations of the Zone and State Council. If you are affected by these recommendations, please excuse yourself from the meeting and do not participate in deliberations.

Nil

5. ADJOURNED BUSINESS

Nil

6. MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Attachments: Minutes of the Flying Minute Meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA 28 November 2022

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Flying Minute meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 28 November 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Warr

Seconded: Cr Sudlow

That the Minutes of the Flying Minute meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 28 November 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

6.2 Business Arising from Minutes

6.2.1 West Coast Demersal Scalefish Resource Management Changes

Prepared By: Dianne Daniels

Attachment: West Coast Demersal Scalefish Resource Recovery - Summary

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the management changes introduced to protect the future of the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Resource.

Background:

At the 29 August 2022 meeting, Mr Garry Keeffe (Proxy) had expressed concern that the proposed changes to the WA recreational fishing rules, which would see fishers prevented from targeting demersal species for nine months of the year, would have an adverse effect on tourism and see businesses closing right down the coast.

The Executive Officer was asked to write to the Hon Don Punch MLA, Minister for Disability Services; Small Business; Fisheries; Seniors and Ageing and to Mr Terry Hill, Director General DPIRD.

Both letters and the responses from Hon Don Punch and DPIRD were attached to the November 28 2022 meeting Agenda, for members information.

Comment:

Following extensive community and industry consultation by Fisheries, new management changes will be introduced to boost the recovery of demersal scalefish stocks. The current two-month demersal closure will be extended to a total of six months for recreational fishers in the West Coast Bioregion from Kalbarri to Augusta. The closure period has been significantly reduced from the initial eight or nine-month proposal, following consultation with recreational fishers.

The changes will commence on 1 February 2023. A summary of those changes is attached.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Girando

Seconded: Cr Sudlow

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the management changes introduced to protect the future of the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Resource.

Carried

7. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION

The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 1 March 2023.

The Matters for Decision in the State Council agenda are numbered 7.1 to 7.5

The Recommendation and Brief only have been included. Please refer to the attached PDF version of the State Council Agenda for more detail.

7.1 (7.1) Proposed Advocacy Position on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

Prepared by: Rachel Armstrong, Senior Policy Advisor Emergency Management

WALGA Recommendation:

That the following Advocacy Position be endorsed:

WALGA supports constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People through the enshrining of a Voice to Parliament.

Executive Summary:

- The Australian Government will hold a referendum in the second half of 2023 on amending the Constitution to enshrine an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament (the Voice) as part of its commitment to implement the Uluru Statement from the Heart.
- At its December 2022 meeting State Council resolved that WALGA prepare an advocacy position in support of constitutional recognition to be circulated to WALGA Zones for their next meeting for consideration and feedback.
- WALGA has prepared the attached Information Paper for WALGA Zones and State Council to facilitate discussion on the proposed WALGA Advocacy Position.

An alternative to the Recommendation, from the Shire of Coorow, was emailed to members by the Executive Officer on Saturday 18 February 2023. This was moved by Councillor Girando and seconded by Cr Sudlow during the meeting:

‘The Northern Country Zone of WALGA believes that WALGA shall remain impartial and without influence in the National Referendum on a Voice to Parliament.’

Crs Girando, Scott, Warr and Sudlow spoke for the Alternate Motion. Crs Chappel and King spoke against the Alternate Motion with Cr Girando taking the Right of Reply.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Girando

Seconded: Cr Sudlow

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA believes that WALGA shall remain impartial and without influence in the National Referendum on a Voice to Parliament.

Carried

7.2 (7.2) Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Submission

Prepared by: Rachel Armstrong, Senior Policy Advisor, Emergency Management

WALGA Recommendation:

That the submission on the draft *Western Australian Community Disaster Resilience Strategy* be endorsed.

Executive Summary:

- The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) has released the draft *Western Australian Community Disaster Resilience Strategy* (CDRS) for public consultation, until 3 March 2023.
- The Strategy intends to provide the guidance to support all Western Australians to increase their disaster resilience.
- The Strategy builds on a *CDRS Discussion Paper*. WALGA previously provided input on the discussion paper, and Local Government Consultation was also undertaken by SEMC
- WALGA has prepared a draft Submission that is supportive of the CDRS

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Girando

Seconded: Cr Clune

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers’ recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 7.2.

Carried

7.3 (7.3) Child Safeguarding Advocacy Position

Prepared by: Vikki Barlow, Senior Policy Advisor Community

WALGA Recommendation:

That the Child Safeguarding Advocacy Position as follows be endorsed:

Child Safeguarding

1. Local Government supports:
 - a. the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse 2017, in particular Recommendation 6.12 which can be achieved by Local Government implementing and embedding child safeguarding across its functions with support from Governments at the national, state and territory levels; and
 - b. the ten National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (Australian Humans Rights Commission).
2. The State Government through an Independent Oversight Body should provide financial, resourcing and capacity building support to Local Governments to implement and embed child safeguarding across its functions, through the provision of:
 - a. supporting materials such as template policies, procedures and guidelines;
 - b. consistent key messaging and resources to promote and share in venues and facilities and online;
 - c. examples of best practice, including case studies;
 - d. self-assessment tools to assist Local Government;
 - e. ongoing training and skills development for Local Government staff, including online training options;
 - f. funding for the delivery of the child safeguarding function within smaller, less well resourced (Band 3 and Band 4) Local Governments; and
 - g. expert officers within each region to provide support and guidance to Local Government on child safeguarding.
3. The Local Government sector supports Local Government participation in the State's National Redress Scheme, with full financial coverage by the State.

Executive Summary:

- Since 2018 WALGA has consulted extensively with Local Government in relation to the response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (the Royal Commission) including the National Redress Scheme, Reportable Conduct and Child Safety Officers.
- WALGA has developed a Child Safeguarding Advocacy Position which will be used to guide policy development, advocacy, and capacity building activities for Local Government within the State framework.
- The new Advocacy Position has been developed based on submissions previously endorsed by State Council and extensive consultation with Local Government and is supported by the Local Government Child Safety Communities of Practice network and the Community Industry Reference Group (CIRG).

Cr Cosgrove spoke against the Recommendation.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Scott

Seconded: Cr King

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 7.3.

Carried

7.4 (7.4) Submission on Draft Guideline Minimising Noise Impact from Outdoor Community Basketball Facilities

Prepared by: Rebecca Brown, Manager, Environment and Waste

WALGA Recommendation:

That the submission on the *Draft Guideline: Minimising noise impact from outdoor community basketball facilities* be endorsed.

Executive Summary:

- The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation released the *Draft Guideline: Minimising noise impact from outdoor community basketball facilities* on 23 December 2022 for a 10 week consultation period.
- The Draft Guideline includes options for how noise, from new community basketball facilities can be mitigated. This includes separation distances between the facility and residents in different circumstances, engineering and facility management controls.
- A draft Submission was circulated to Local Government for feedback and the final Submission has been updated based on the information provided.
- The WALGA Submission provides feedback on the costs and practicality of the various interventions suggested.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Warr

Seconded: Cr Scott

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 7.4.

Carried

7.5 (7.5) Main Roads Draft Roadside Advertising Policy and Application Guidelines

Prepared by: Max Bushell, Policy Officer Road Safety and Infrastructure

WALGA Recommendation:

That the submission to Main Roads on its Draft Roadside Advertising Policy and Application Guidelines be endorsed.

Executive Summary:

- Main Roads is seeking feedback on their Draft Roadside Advertising Policy and Application Guidelines.
- This policy could be used to significantly curtail the deployment of roadside advertising devices, which are currently used by Local Governments as a source of public realm amenity, support funding bus shelter improvements and are a source of revenue for Local Government in some cases.
- As drafted, these guidelines would apply to most of the public road network, including Local Government roads, and signs on private property that are visible from the road. The draft guidelines would cover advertiser-funded bus shelters and information or decorative banners.
- There is no demonstrated road safety problem resulting from roadside advertising devices, as currently deployed in Western Australia. Road safety is the stated rationale for developing this policy.
- WALGA has prepared a submission to Main Roads on the guidelines, requesting:
 - Greater delegation of authority in assessing small format static signs and small format digital signs.
 - Guaranteed processing times for classes of signs for which Main Roads retains the assessment function. This includes requesting a schedule of approval time frames, and a "deemed approved" clause in the event of these timeframes not being met.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:**Moved:** Cr Connaughton**Seconded:** Cr Cosgrove

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 7.5.

Carried

8. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 1 March 2023

The Matters for Noting/Information in the State Council agenda are numbered 9.1 to 9.7.

The Recommendation and Brief only have been included. Please refer to the attached PDF version of the State Council Agenda for more detail.

8.1 (9.1) Animal Welfare in Emergencies Grant Program Overview

Prepared by: Cassandra Mora, Policy Officer, Emergency Management

WALGA Recommendation:

That the update on the Animal Welfare in Emergencies Grant Program be noted.

Executive Summary:

- The Animal Welfare in Emergencies Grant Program was established in 2020 between the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and WALGA to improve the capacity of Local Governments, and their communities, to manage the impacts of emergency situations on animal welfare.
- At the conclusion of the Program in June 2022, 40 Local Governments shared in a total of \$414,066.06 funding through project grants and reimbursement of costs to attend a tailored three-day training course at the Muresk Institute.

8.2 (9.2) Emergency Management Update

Prepared by: Rachel Armstrong, Senior Policy Advisor, Emergency Management

WALGA Recommendation:

That State Council note this Emergency Management update.

Executive Summary:

- The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) has revised the timing of the Consultation Exposure Draft Bill for the proposed Emergency Services Act, which is now expected to be released for a three-month consultation period in mid-2023.
- The Auditor General has released Report 13: 2022-23 Funding of Volunteer Emergency and Fire Services, which includes recommendations for DFES and for Local Government.
- The Minister for Emergency Services has written to the WALGA President in response to the WALGA 2023-24 State Budget Submission, including advice that DFES is considering a review of the Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGS).
- WALGA was recently contacted by DFES regarding the legality of Bush Fire Brigades established by Local Governments in the absence of an associated Bush Fire Brigades Local Law, and has sought its own legal advice and contacted impacted LGs.

- WALGA is maintaining a watching brief on the Kimberly Floods emergency, is in communication with the Shire of Broome and Shire of Derby – West Kimberley and will provide support as required to the response and recovery effort.

8.3 (9.3) Local Development Plan Background Paper

Prepared by: Coralie Claudio, Senior Policy Advisor Planning

WALGA Recommendation:

That State Council note the Local Development Plan Background Paper.

Executive Summary:

- Local Development Plans (LDPs) are planning instruments used to facilitate and coordinate development and assist in achieving built form outcomes.
- WALGA established a Local Government LDP Working Group, including members of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) Planning Reform team, following multiple Local Governments raising concerns with LDPs.
- The LDP Background paper identifies four key challenges associated with LDPs and provides recommended solutions that will inform DPLH's formal review of LDPs.

8.4 (9.4) 2023-24 WALGA Federal Budget Submission

Prepared by: Daniel Thomson, Economist

WALGA Recommendation:

That WALGA's letter in support of the Australian Local Government Association's 2023-24 Federal Budget Submission be noted.

Executive Summary:

- WALGA recently wrote to the Federal Treasurer in support of the Australian Local Government Association's (ALGA) 2023-24 Federal Budget Submission.
- WALGA's letter supports the priority areas identified in ALGA's submission.
- It also highlights several initiatives of particular importance to Western Australia, given the State's unique geographic and economic circumstances including addressing climate change (notably funding support to reduce emissions and for coastal hazard planning); continuation of key infrastructure programs including the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, Roads of Strategic Importance and Roads to Recovery; and addressing the shortage of building surveyors.
- In coming weeks WALGA will be writing to Western Australian members of Federal Parliament to draw their attention to the spending priorities for Western Australian Local Governments in the 2023-24 Budget.

8.5 (9.5) WALGA Submission on Phase Three of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 Co-Design Process

Prepared by: Alina Hobson, Policy Officer, Resilient Communities

WALGA Recommendation:

That the submission on Phase Three of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* Co-design Process, endorsed via Flying Minute on 23 December 2022, be noted.

Executive Summary:

- The *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* (ACH Act) is expected to commence in July 2023.
- During 2022, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) facilitated a three-phase co-design process to develop the regulations, statutory guidelines and operational policies that will support the ACH Act.

- WALGA provided a submission at each stage including in response to Phase Three.
- WALGA's Phase Three submission was endorsed by State Council by way of Flying Minute on 23 December 2022.
- This completes the consultation process for the ACH Act, with DPLH now moving into a document finalisation and implementation phase.
- Since 2018, WALGA has undertaken the following advocacy and capacity building activities to in relation to the development of the new ACH Act:
 - filed five State Council endorsed submissions;
 - provided formal feedback twice via letter and survey;
 - 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; and
 - co-delivered 5 Infosessions and webinars with DPLH to facilitate consultation with, and provide information to, Local Governments; and
 - included a request 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](#).
- WALGA will continue to support the Local Government sector with ongoing implementation and capacity building support.

8.6 (9.6) Child Care Premises Position Statement: Consultation Response

Prepared by: Ruby Pettit, Policy Officer Planning

WALGA Recommendation:

That State Council note the consultation response to the Child Care Premises Position Statement.

Executive Summary:

- The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) released a draft Position Statement: Child Care Premises in November 2022 which outlines the DPLH position and key considerations for proponents, decision-makers and the community in the development and assessment of child care premises.
- The WALGA consultation response provides comment on minor matters of a technical nature and supports the continued status of the Position Statement as providing guidance to Local Governments while retaining flexibility needed to develop local planning scheme and policy provisions that respond to local context.

8.7 (9.7) Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC)

Prepared by: Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Environment

WALGA Recommendation:

That the resolutions of the 14 December 2022 Municipal Waste Advisory Council meeting be noted.

Executive Summary:

This item summaries the outcomes of the MWAC meeting held on Wednesday 14 December 2022.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Girando

Seconded: Cr Sudlow

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes State Council Agenda Items 9.1 to 9.7.

Carried

9. REPORTS

9.1 Zone President's Report

The Zone President's Report was deferred, to be considered as part of the WALGA President's Report at Item 9.3.

9.2 WALGA State Council Representative's Report

Cr Moira Girando - 20/03/2023

Good morning Delegates, Staff and Visitors please see below my report on matters pertaining to my representation of you at State Council and to WALGA.

Below is a detailed report on relevant matters that arose at the December 7th meeting of State Council.

Also I attended either in person or by teams meetings the following: WALGA Info / Briefing Session 15/2/2023 followed by the WALGA Finance and Services Committee meeting the same day.

I shall be attending the WALGA Selection Committee meeting on 23/02/2023 & WALGA State Council Meeting on 01/03/2023 at which I will represent any decisions coming out of today's meeting.

The final State Council meeting for 2022 was held on Wednesday, 7 December at the WALGA offices in West Leederville.

Strategic Forum

At the December Strategic Forum, State Council received several engaging and informative presentations from:

- Ms. Tiffany Allen, CEO of the Construction Training Fund, about the work of the Fund and how it can benefit Local Governments.
- Mr. Garry Hunt from the Garry Hunt Consulting Group facilitated a discussion with State Councillors about the results of the recent State Council Performance Assessment Survey.
- Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services and Samantha Lyon, Employee Relations Project Consultant provided an overview of the State Industrial Relations transition process and the opportunity for WALGA to advocate to become an Employer Organisation.

State Council Meeting

Voice to Parliament

State Council resolved to consider three Zone items from the November 2022 round of Zone meetings relating to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament at the December meeting. In addition, State Council endorsed requesting the Commonwealth Government to ensure that Local Governments and local communities across WA are meaningfully engaged with on the issue. Finally, State Council resolved that an advocacy position in support of constitutional recognition would be developed. The proposed advocacy position is included in the State Council agenda for Zone and State Council consideration.

Elected Member Superannuation

State Council resolved for WALGA to advocate for superannuation to be required to be paid to Elected Members of Local Governments in SAT Bands 1 and 2, and for payment to be optional for Local Governments in SAT Bands 3 and 4.

Updated Advocacy Positions

Several Advocacy Positions were updated by State Council in relation to Biosecurity, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, and Coastal Planning.

2022 Annual General Meeting Resolutions

All resolutions passed at the 2022 AGM were put to State Council for consideration and were either endorsed for action or referred to the relevant Policy Team for further work to be undertaken.

Other decisions as per the minutes of the meeting.

Signed Moira J Girando JP

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Sudlow

Seconded: Cr Cosgrove

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the WALGA State Council Representative's Report for 20 February 2023.

Carried

9.3 WALGA President's Report

The WALGA President's Report is attached to the Agenda.

Cr Chappel and CEO Sloan spoke to the report.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr King

Seconded: Cr Cosgrove

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the WALGA President's Report for March 2023.

Carried

9.4 Zone Status Report

A Status Report outlining the actions taken on the Zone's resolutions is attached.

A letter from Anna Bligh AC, CEO Australian Banking Association to Cr Linda Scott, National President ALGA, was forwarded to the EO from WALGA as an update to the Status Report and is attached.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Girando

Seconded: Cr Cosgrove

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the February 2023 Status Report outlining actions taken on the Zone's resolutions.

Carried

10. ZONE MATTERS FOR NOTING/DECISION

10.1 Correspondence

10.1.1 Correspondence Out

Nil

10.1.2 Correspondence In

10.1.2 (a) 02/12/22 WALGA

Attachments: Email from Ian Duncan

An email from Ian Duncan outlining the key outcomes from the consultation day on Recommendation 4 of the Shepherd Report, as provided by Energy Policy WA.

10.1.2 (b) 02/12/22 Cr Wayne Fewster, Shire President Gin Gin

Attachment: Email from Cr Fewster

An email commenting on the summary report provided following the consultation day on Recommendation 4 of the Shepherd Report.

10.1.2 (c) 16/12/2022 WALGA

Attachment: Flying Minute from Chantelle O'Brien (sent directly to members)

A State Council Flying Minute – ACH Co-Design Phase Three - from Chantelle O'Brien, for comment from members

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Cosgrove

Seconded: Cr Sudlow

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives Correspondence In at Items 10.1.2 (a) through to 10.1.2 (c).

Carried

10.2 Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 30 January 2023

Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer

Attachments: Bank Statements Nov 22/Dec 22/Jan 23

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 January 2023

Comments:

The Detailed Income Statement shown below represents the cash position of NCZ at 31 January 2023, as reconciled to the Bank Statement.

NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA				
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT				
For the period ending				
31-Jan-23				
	Date	Ref	Amount	Description
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-22		10,059.48	
Deposits			15,000.00	2022-23 Membership Subscriptions x 10
			0.76	Interest received
TOTAL RECEIPTS			15,000.76	
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE			25,060.24	
Payments Made	11-07-22		-3,130.66	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 222301 - EO Services 12/05/2022-01/07/2022; Travel; Extraordinary meeting (Zoom)
	28-07-22		-275.00	Internet Tsf - North Midlands Accounting - Inv 2023-000003 - 21-22 Audit
	29-07-22		-370.57	Internet Bpay - Shire of Mingenew - Inv 9966 - Reimburse Catering June 2022 meeting
	01-09-22		-2,845.65	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 222302 - EO Services 02/07/2022-31/08/2022; Travel; Stationery
	21-09-22		-607.87	Internet Bpay - Shire of Mingenew - Inv 10032 - Reimburse Catering Aug 2022 meeting
	01-11-22		-72.60	Internet Tsf - Norris & Hyde IT - Inv 44705 - Microsoft Office 365 Annual Renewal
	30-11-22		-2,600.00	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 222303 - EO Services 01/09/2022-29/11/2022
TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE			-9,902.35	
Closing Cash Balance	31-01-23		15,157.89	

NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA				
BANK RECONCILIATION SUMMARY				
For the period ending				
31-Jan-23				
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-22		10,059.48	
Deposits and Credits			15,000.76	
Cheques and Payments			-9,902.35	
Total Cleared Transactions	31-01-23		15,157.89	
Add back o/s			0.00	
Reconciled Balance			15,157.89	
Bank Statement	31-01-23		15,157.89	
Difference I&E to Bank Statement			0.00	

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Scott

Seconded: Cr Sudlow

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 January 2023.

Carried

10.3 Total Fire Ban Impacts on Road Management

Prepared By: Shire of Morawa

Attachments: DFES TFB Road Work Fact Sheet and DFES TFB Off Road Activity Fact Sheet

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA request the WA Local Government Association to advocate to the State Government for a review of exemption conditions relevant to Road Work activities in relation to section 22C of the Bushfires Act 1954 and Bush Fires Regulations 1954 – Reg. 24Y to 24ZG.

Background:

In 2022, the Government of Western Australia along with the Department of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES) announced the adoption of a new nationally consistent Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS). The previous Fire Danger Rating System was based on 60-year-old science which was not adaptable to the latest scientific understanding about weather, fuel, and fire behaviour in different types of vegetation.

The new Fire Danger Rating System has four levels and provides clear guidance around severity and appropriate actions to take.

This guidance extends to permitted and controlled activities during a TFB.

A TFB is declared when a fire is likely to spread rapidly or if widespread fires are already burning and firefighting resources are stretched. As a result, Local Governments across the state are seeing an increase in the number of TFB declarations.

As an example, according to the latest DFES statistics, the Shire of Morawa had a total of 33 TFB declarations in 2021/22, a 660% increase from the same period during 2016/17.

NUMBER OF TOTAL FIRE BAN DECLARATIONS PER FIRE SEASON - SHIRE OF MORAWA					
2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
5	2	8	18	16	33

Comments:

The increasing number of TFB declarations across the Zone is likely impacting Road Work operations for all Shire's.

During a TFB, Road Work may only be carried out in the course of trade or commerce, or by (or on behalf of) a public entity (such as a Local Government) only when the Fire Danger Rating is not catastrophic, and all of the regulated conditions are complied with.

Key conditions:

1. Notification in advance of works via DFES website
2. Two approved fire extinguishers in proximity
3. The equipment must not be used within 5m of any inflammable material
4. If there is less than 30m between the road work and bush, crop, stubble, or grassland then a firefighting vehicle with a water volume over 500L (exact L set by criteria) must be onsite with a dedicated fire detection officer. With firefighting equipment to remain onsite 30 minutes after works.

In general, conditions 1 and 2 are achievable but conditions 3 and 4 prove much more difficult.

Throughout the Zone, road operations will prove difficult to perform as most activities will be within 30m of bush or crop which triggers the need for the provision of firefighting water onsite. Once this is coupled with the requirement to have an additional 5000L if operating over 1km from a reticulated water supply. This means on a high fire danger rating day in a remote country area away from reticulated water the road team will need 6,500L of firefighting water on hand at all times.

Road maintenance activities throughout the Zone generally involve a single employee working alone with a grader. Unsealed road networks generally do not have full vegetation clearing undertaken and given road widths it makes it extremely difficult to achieve the minimum 5m setback to roadside vegetation (inflammable material). In some areas roadside vegetation is within 1m of the road. As such without Local Governments undertaking District wide road verge clearing prior to the summer season each year, this is likely to be impractical, costly, and unfeasible, it means the Local Governments are unable to undertake road maintenance on any roads with vegetation within 5m of the edge of the road on a TFB day.

On average, during the summer period, there are 62 weekdays, 10 of which are generally lost to reduced services over the holiday period, in addition to staff leave.

As a result, the Shire's Road Construction and Maintenance Crews have 52 days to undertake construction and maintenance across the main three (3) months of summer. In the case of Morawa, depending on what day of the week the TFB is called, it could result in less than 20 working days.

With due respect to the Bush Fires Act 1954 and associated regulations, the road work exemption conditions fit neatly with Main Roads and metro operations but do not align well with country local government roads. The summer period coincides with peak harvest season which places significant demand on the Shire's unsealed road network. Unless the exemption conditions are reviewed the work stoppages during the summer months will result in a critically underserviced road network, simultaneously reducing driver safety, and increasing cost of maintenance and repair.

The TFB exemption conditions applied to off road activity such as harvesting are much less onerous with the key conditions being:

- the vehicle is mechanically sound;
- the exhaust system is in good condition, free of gas leaks and has a well-maintained spark arrester; and
- all reasonable precautions have been taken to prevent a bushfire starting.

Interestingly in 2021 WFI (farm insurers) stated on their website that on average 7% of harvesters start a fire each year –based on agricultural research from the Kondinin Group. DFES have indicated that in the last few years they are only aware of two fires started by road works.

From a risk perspective the local government sector needs to highlight that increases in truck lengths and weights has placed an extra burden on the road network, at the same time as an increase in TFB declarations has reduced the ability of local governments to maintain roads in country areas. Essentially increasing the rate of pavement deterioration increasing the risk of traffic accidents.

The agricultural industry can continue to harvest during TFB declarations but rely on safe and accessible roads to transport product to market. Unless the regulations are reviewed to allow road maintenance grading, transporting grain and other materials more readily during harvest will become more difficult.

The Shire of Morawa requests the Zone and WALGA to advocate for the State Government to collaboratively (DFES, Local Governments, Main Roads) review the regulations to improve the ability of country Local Governments to provide essential road work services given the resource and terrain constraints in place.

This approach will need to measure the financial and safety impact of not satisfactorily maintaining roads, against the risk of maintenance works causing a fire.

As a starting point the Shire suggests:

- the requirement that a grader not be used within 5m of inflammable material be removed
- Modify the requirements around grading and bitumising within 30m of bush or crop etc. such that consideration is given to works relating to unsealed roads or where the bitumen used is cold. A standard Ute mounted firefighting unit ranges from 500-1000L. If the regulation could reduce the minimum volume of firefighting water required onsite it would allow Local Governments to modify existing equipment to facilitate firefighting if needed.
- There is also a requirement for road works undertaken more than 1km from a reticulated water supply to have a 5000L water tanker onsite. This may be achievable for road construction but not for standard road maintenance operations.

All local governments in WA and located within the Midwest-Gascoyne District are facing the same restrictions and therefore, a coordinated approach towards finding solutions would have the greatest chance of success.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Chappel

Seconded: Cr Clune

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA request the WA Local Government Association to advocate to the State Government for a review of exemption conditions relevant to Road Work activities in relation to section 22C of the Bushfires Act 1954 and Bush Fires Regulations 1954 – Reg. 24Y to 24ZG.

Carried

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

As per Item 35 of the Zone Standing Orders, a Delegate may under General Business introduce a motion relating to any item of interest to Local Government, but not otherwise.

11.1 Regional Issues

Background:

As per the resolution at Item 9.1 of the February 2018 minutes, Regional Issues are open for discussion.

Nil

11.2 Regional Tourism Initiatives

Background:

As per the resolution at Item 10.1 of the April 2019 minutes, Regional Tourism Initiatives are open for discussion.

Nil

11.3 Other General Business

11.3.1 Call to Guests to Address Meeting

The President called on invited guests to address the meeting.

Mr Shane Love MLA, Ms Janet Hartley-West, Mr Nils Hay, Mr Mark Holdsworth and Mr Craig Vinci took the opportunity to update members on relevant matters.

11.3.2 Rotate Meetings through Shires/City

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA meetings be rotated through the ten member Shires/City on an alphabetical basis, starting with Carnamah on 26 June 2023.

Comments:

Cr Girando, after discussion with Cr Chappel, suggested there was merit in returning to a rotation system for meetings, as it would allow other members to showcase their towns and current projects.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Warr

Seconded: Cr Wooltorton

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA meetings be rotated through the ten member Shires/City on an alphabetical basis, starting with Carnamah on 26 June 2023.

Carried

12. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Recommendation:

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held by Flying Minute on Monday 24 April, 2023.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Woollorton

Seconded: Cr King

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held by Flying Minute on Monday 24 April 2023.

Carried

13. MEETING CLOSURE

Meeting declared closed at 12:05pm.