

Great Southern Country Zone

Minutes

Friday, 23 February 2024

9.30am

Shire of Cranbrook

Cranbrook Sporting Club

55/67 King Street

Cranbrook

Contact WALGA Zone Secretariat:

Lyn Fogg
Zone Executive Officer
WALGA Governance Specialist
lfogg@walga.asn.au
08 9213 2042

Chantelle O'Brien
Governance Support Officer
cobrien@walga.asn.au
08 9213 2013

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Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework



This tool has been developed to assist the Great Southern Zone to determine the relative priority of a particular issue relative to existing policy and advocacy priorities.

The prioritisation framework does not remove the need for judgements to be made and is intended to *guide*, not replace, decision-making.

Impact on Local Government Sector Impact on Local Government sector without intervention	High	Medium	Low
Reach Number of member Local Governments affected	Sector-wide	Significant (multiple regions, Zones, or bands)	Few
Influence Capacity to influence decision makers	High	Medium	Low
Principles Alignment to core principles such as autonomy, funding, general competence	Strong	Partial	Peripheral
Clarity Policy change needed is clear and well-defined	Clear	Partial	Unclear
Decision-maker support Level of support among decision-makers (political and administrative)	High	Medium	Low
Public support Level of support among the public or other stakeholders	High	Medium	Low
Positive consequences for WALGA Zone Prospect of positive consequences for WALGA zone. E.g. enhanced standing among members or leverage for other issues.	High	Medium	Low
Negative consequences for WALGA Zone Prospect of negative consequences for WALGA zone for not undertaking the advocacy effort. E.g. diminished standing among members or other stakeholders.	High	Medium	Low
Partnerships Potential for partnerships with other stakeholders	Yes (3+)	Possibly (1-2)	No (0)

Using this tool:

- If the majority of the factors are towards the left column, the issue is a high priority
- If the majority of the factors are towards the middle, the issue requires action, but is not a high priority
- If the majority of the factors are towards the right column, the issue is a low priority

Following prioritisation, an appropriate and proportionate policy and advocacy approach can be determined.

Endorsed by GSCZ Feb 2022

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

The meeting was opened by Deputy Chair, Mayor Greg Stocks at 9.45am. Mayor Stocks advised the meeting that Chair, Cr Scott Crosby was delayed but expected to arrive soon.

1.1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTY

Deputy Chair, Mayor Greg Stocks provided the Acknowledgement of Country:

We, the Great Southern Country Zone of WALGA acknowledge the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to County, culture, and community. We embrace the vast cultural diversity throughout Western Australia, including the Noongar People as the Traditional Custodians of this land, and pay our respects to Elders past and present. WALGA is committed to supporting the efforts of WA Local Governments to foster respectful partnerships and strengthen relationships with local Aboriginal communities.

2. ATTENDANCE

ZONE MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES:

City of Albany Deputy Delegate/s	Mayor Greg Stocks Zone Deputy Chair Deputy Mayor Cr Paul Terry Cr Lynn MacLaren (Observer) CEO Andrew Sharpe (non-voting)
Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup Deputy Delegate/s	Deputy President Cr Doug Barritt Cr Carl Letter CEO Karen Callaghan (non-voting)
Shire of Cranbrook Deputy Delegate/s	Cr Perin Mulcahy (Deputy Delegate) Cr Peter Denton (Deputy Delegate) CEO Linda Gray (non-voting)
Shire of Denmark Deputy Delegate/s	Cr Janine Phillips CEO David King (non-voting)
Shire of Gnowangerup	President Cr Kate O’Keeffe Deputy President Cr Rebecca O’Meehan CEO David Nicholson (non-voting)
Shire of Jerramungup Deputy Delegate/s	Cr Neil Foreman CEO Martin Cuthbert (non-voting)
Shire of Katanning	President Cr Kristy D’Aprile Cr John Goodheart CEO Peter Klein (non-voting)

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Shire of Kent Deputy Delegate/s	Cr Scott Crosby, Zone Chair Cr Dustin Harris
Shire of Kojonup	President Cr Roger Bilney Deputy President Cr Cynthia Wieringa CEO Grant Thompson (non-voting)
Shire of Plantagenet	President, Cr Len Handasyde Deputy President, Cr Andrew Fraser Cr Josh Liebeck (Observer) CEO Julian Murphy (non-voting)
Shire of Woodanilling	President Cr Dale Douglas Deputy President Cr Russel Thomson
GUESTS	Nil
Agencies	Nil.
Members of Parliament	Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor
WALGA	Cr Paul Kelly, Deputy President WALGA State Council Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services Lyn Fogg, Zone Executive Officer Vivienne Gardiner, Regional Road Safety Adviser
Guest Speaker/s	

2.1. APOLOGIES

Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup	President Cr Michael White
Shire of Cranbrook	President Cr George Pollard Deputy President Cr Daisy Egerton-Warburton
Shire of Denmark	Cr Dominic Youel Cr Jackie Ormsby
Shire of Jerramungup	President Cr Joanne Iffla Deputy President Cr Julie Leenhouders
Shire of Kent	President Cr Kate Johnston CEO Christie Smith (non-voting)
Shire of Woodanilling	CEO Belinda Knight (non-voting)
GUESTS	Rebecca Stephens MLA, Member for Albany Jane Kelsbie, MLA Member for Warren-Blackwood Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for Agricultural Region Peter Rundle, MLA, Member for Roe
Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries	Mel Eastough, Regional Manager

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Regional Development Australia – Great Southern WA Inc	Simon Lyas, Director, Regional Development
Great Southern Development Commission	Jarrad Gardner, Acting Chief Executive Officer
South Coast Natural Resource Management	Cr John Oldfield, Shire of Plantagenet
Great Southern Human Services Forum	Michaela Crosby, Shire of Kent
National Emergency Management Agency	Annette Balmer, Coordination and Planning Officer
Guest Speaker	Andrew Vlahov, Friendship Games

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pursuant to our Code of Conduct, Councillors must declare to the Chair 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, as a voting delegate, are affected by these recommendations, please excuse yourself from the meeting and do not participate in deliberations.

Nil.

****9.50am Zone Chair Cr Scott Crosby entered the meeting and assumed the Chair, thanking Mayor Greg Stocks.**

4. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS

4.1. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Members of Federal and State Government, representing the Zone Member Local Government Districts, are invited to provide a brief update on matters relevant to Zone Members.

4.1.1. Hon. Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor

Mr Wilson provided an update on several matters including:

- Growing Regions funding applications/
- Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network funding awaiting Ministerial sign-off.
- Cranbrook Airport opening today – noting this was likely the last regional airport project to be funded.
- Proposed live sheep export ban – videos highlighting community issues now published.
- Likely impact for increased vehicle tax.

4.2. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATION

Details of guest speakers approved by the Zone for future meetings

Zone Meeting Dates 2023 /2024		Speaker Proposed
April 2024	Denmark	WA Salaries and Allowances Tribunal - regional allowances methodology (GSCZ-23/08/23-4.2.2)

June 2024	Gnowangerup	Department of Mines and Industry Regulation – Exploration licenses, regulations, and procedures (GSCZ-23/08/23-4.2.2)
Aug 2024	Jerramungup	Albany 2026 Bicentennial – planning for regional economic benefit (GSCZ-23/08/23-4.2.2)

Update:

The Zone Executive Officer has requested Tourism WA for advice as to a potential guest speaker to advise on opportunities for promotion regional tourism during the Albany 2026 Bicentennial.

If possible, a guest speaker on this topic will be arranged for either the April or June 2024 meeting, on the basis of enabling the longest lead time for member Local Governments to undertake any necessary planning and budget allocations.

Noted and agreed.

4.2.1. Friendship Games – Andrew Vlahov

Andrew Vlahov from Friendship Games speaking about this event being coordinated for next year.

The purpose of the initiative is as follows:

Global

Create a globally recognised youth event in Western Australia. To enhance strategic relationships by providing pathways and platforms for inclusion and to build enduring relationships for Western Australia, our First Nations Communities and global partners.

Local

To bring together our youth in communities including Remote and Regional participants with a sport, culture and education platform for the broader community of Western Australia (WA) including Government, Industry and Corporate WA for social and economic benefit.

Sports Diplomacy 2030

To create a globally recognised sports event aligned to the Sports Diplomacy 2030 strategic priorities. Increase awareness of the Australian cultural exchange opportunities, leveraging the positive international connections during the Games, enhancing Australia's reputation as an inclusive and respectful country.

The Friendship Games is a multisport "carnival style" program. A condensed program format is proposed in 2024 with 11 targeted sports and approximately 4500 participants from International, WA Regional and Metropolitan youth aged between 13-16 years of age and inclusive of all abilities.

Meeting Note:

Mr Vlahov was unable to present via virtual means, due to unstable WiFi. Mr Vlahov will instead be invited to present at the April 2024 meeting at the Shire of Denmark.

4.2.2. WALGA Governance and Zone Processes

Executive Director Member Services, Tony Brown

Presentation on WALGA's Governance Structure, the role of WALGA's State Council, Zone Governance and processes.

Meeting Note:

A copy of the presentation and a link to the WALGA Advocacy Position Manual is circulated with the minutes.

Noted.

5. AGENCY REPORTS

5.1. GREAT SOUTHERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (GSDC)

Nil.

5.2. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA GREAT SOUTHERN WA INC (RDA-GS)

Nil.

5.3. SOUTH COAST NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (SCNRM)

Nil.

5.4. GREAT SOUTHERN HUMAN SERVICES FORUM

Nil.

5.5. GREAT SOUTHERN REGIONAL ROADS GROUP

Report by Cr Len Handasyde, Shire of Plantagenet

Regional Road Group (RRG) Report for WALGAGS meeting 23-02-2024

There hasn't been a meeting held of the RRG since November as we only meet twice a year in November and April.

However, there has been people working in the background to see the Great Southern Secondary Freight Network (GSSSFN) report progressed. The multi criteria assessment tool has been developed for the region and this will be worked with to assess the roads remaining on the list. This will bring the most needy roads into sharp focus and allow these roads to be targeted to fund.

MRWA Great Southern have been tireless in their efforts to bring this document into being and it will be a great tool in the future.

We look forward to working for greater funding for the transport sector into the future but to do this well we must have a clear approach from LGA's to achieve 100% acquittals on their RRG funded projects. We continue to struggle with this as a region and we must work towards a regional approach to address it.

There may well be a better method of assisting smaller LGA's to acquit the RRG funds. This will be something for the sector to consider into the future with either some form of shared services or assistance asked for and received in order to acquit on time.

Cr Len Handasyde Chair GSRRG

Shire of Plantagenet.

5.6. DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SPORT AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES (DLGSC)

Regional Manager, Mel Eastough

Attachment No. 1 DLGSC Update – February 2024 (circulated as separate attachment)

Noted.

5.7. WALGA ROADWISE COUNCILS

RoadWise Councils Road Safety Advisor, Vivienne Gardner

Attachment No. 2 [Regional Road Safety Advisor Report – February 2024](#)

Road Safety Advisor, Vivienne Gardner spoke to the report provided in attachment No.2.

For more information:

Vivienne Gardiner, Regional Road Safety Advisor

T: 0418 904 081

E: vgardiner@walga.asn.au

Noted.

6. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Len Handasyde

Seconded: President Cr Dale Douglas

That the minutes of the Great Southern Country Zone meeting held on 24 November 2023, as previously circulated, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

6.1. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1.1. Zone Request to Meet with Community Cabinet

Zone Executive Officer, Lyn Fogg

Background

Refers Item 8.1.2 Zone Chairperson's Report, of the Zone meeting held 24 November 2024, the following actions were agreed:

ACTIONS:

- Zone Executive Officer to liaise with City of Albany to confirm if a Zone meeting with the Community Cabinet is viable.
- If so, Zone Executive Officer to identify potential topics for discussion with Community Cabinet based upon the Zone's September 2023 Regional State Council presentation, aligned with the WALGA State Budget Submission and circulate the proposal to Zone.
- Zone Executive Officer, in consultation with the Chair to coordinate an online special meeting of the Zone to facilitate arrangements for the Zone's meeting with Community Cabinet.

Comment

The Zone Executive Officer appreciates the support of City of Albany CEO, Andrew Sharpe, who made the request on behalf of the Zone, for Zone representatives to meet with the State Government Cabinet during the Community Cabinet meeting in Albany on 6 February 2024.

Unfortunately, the Department of Premier and Cabinet was unable to accommodate the request on this occasion.

Meeting Note:

Several Zone members provided an update on the lunch hosted by Minister for Local Government, Hannah Beazley, prior to the Community Cabinet, attended by Great Southern Zone Mayor, Presidents and CEO's, with the following matters advocated for by Zone Members:

- Housing / Key worker accommodation
- Road infrastructure upgrades
- Need for State Government funded GROH housing

Noted.

6.1.2. Great Southern Country Zone: Appeal for Remedial Action on Education Policy and Procedures in Country Schools

Zone Executive Officer, Lyn Fogg

Background

The Zone resolved at its meeting held 24 November 2023:

The Great Southern Zone requests that WALGA strongly advocates to the Department of Education (Department) on behalf of rural and remote districts and that greater efforts be made to reduce the inequality of educational opportunity with particular reference to the following:

1. *That the Department makes available resources for intervention in the experience of students specifically disaffected by the current model of schooling who are disruptive, falling behind and at risk of failing to learn to read, write and work in basic arithmetic;*

including intensive attention combined with health and like issues and more active, empathic, and practical instruction.

- 2. That the Department makes available the current resources of Distant Education and/or enables families to access similar private providers for secondary education in order that students can study for an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank), or other subjects of their own choosing, using internet resources and mentors provided in the schools closest to them; and*
- 3. That the Department subsidises housing suitable for teachers or enables local Governments to build and manage such housing.*

WALGA State Council referred the Zone's resolution to the People and Place Policy Team meeting held 7 February 2024, where the Policy Team resolved:

That the People and Place Policy Team:

1. Note the request of the Great Southern Country Zone and the issues raised regarding education policy and procedures,
2. Recommends that State Council consider the issue as a key policy priority in the 2024 Policy Priorities.
3. Recommends that the Great Southern Country Zone continue to advocate directly to the relevant State agencies on this issue, including further representations to the Minister for Education and Department of Education and Department of Communities.
4. Recommends that the Great Southern Zone inform other country zones of this advocacy position with a view to possible cooperation.

Comment

The below recommendations are provided for the Zone's consideration in respect of the WALGA State Council Policy Team's recommendations 3 and 4 above.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Roger Bilney
Seconded: Cr Cynthia Wieringa

That the Great Southern Country Zone requests the Zone Executive Officer prepare correspondence advocating for action to address inequality of educational opportunity in rural and regional areas consistent with the Zone's 24 November 2024 resolution, addressed to the following:

- 1. Minister for Education, Minister for Early Childhood Education and Community Services and Minister for Training and Workforce Development; and**
- 2. All WALGA regional Zones.**

CARRIED

6.2. ZONE RESOLUTION AND ACTION ITEMS STATUS REPORTS

Zone Executive Officer, Lyn Fogg

Attachment No. 3 [Zone Status Report February 2024](#)

Attachment No. 4 [Zone Action Items Report February 2024](#)

The Status Report provides an update on Zone resolutions referred to WALGA State Council. Status Items identified as 'Completed' will be removed following this meeting. Zone Members are asked to review responses.

The Action Items Report provides an update on Zone resolutions for action by Zone members or the Zone Executive Officer. Action Items identified as 'Completed' in this Report will be removed following this meeting. Zone members are asked to review responses.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Len Handasyde
Seconded: Cr Paul Terry

That the Great Southern Country Zone NOTES the:

- 1. Status Report for February 2024, as detailed in Attachment No.3; and**
- 2. Action Items Report for February 2024, as detailed in Attachment No.4.**

CARRIED

7. ZONE BUSINESS

7.1. ZONE REPORTS

7.1.1. Zone Financial Report

WALGA Finance Manager, Nilpa Shah-Smith

Zone Financial Report for January 2024

(All amounts are excluding GST unless otherwise specified)

Financial statements for the zone have been prepared on an accrual basis and show the financial performance and financial position for the period ended 31 January 2024.

Income includes all member subscriptions invoiced and collected.

Meeting costs of \$1,485 related to payment for catering expenses for zone meeting held in August in Albany and in November in Tambellup.

The overall result for the year to date consists of a surplus of \$5,045 compared to the budgeted surplus of \$1,450.

Table 1: Statement of Income and Expenditure – period ended 31 January 2024

	Note	Actual	Budget
		\$	\$
Income			
Subscriptions	1	6,600	6,600
Other		-	
Total Income		6,600	6,600
Expenses			
Bank Fees		70	150
Meeting Costs	2	1,485	5,000
Total Expenses		1,555	5,150
Surplus/(Deficit)		\$5,045	\$1,450
Notes			
1. Subscriptions excl GST 11@ \$600 each - Invoiced by WALGA on behalf of GSCZ - All fully paid.			
2. Catering expense for zone meeting held in Albany 31/8/23 at the Fat Scone & Tambellup on 24/11/2023			

Table 2: Balance Sheet presenting the Zone's financial position as at 31 January 2024

Assets	\$
Bank	34,582
Total Assets	34,582
Liabilities	
Creditors	-
GST Payable	-
Unused Project Funds	28,800
Total Liabilities	28,800
Net Assets	\$ 5,782
Equity	
Members Funds B/F	737
Current year earnings	5,045
Total Equity	\$ 5,782

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Dale Douglas
Seconded: Cr Rebecca O'Meehan

That the Great Southern Country Zone receives the Zone Financial Report the period ending 31 January 2024.

CARRIED

7.1.2. Zone Chairperson's Report

Zone Chair, Cr Scott Crosby

The Zone Chair updated the meeting as follows:

- Appreciation for the Minister for Local Government meeting with Zone representatives.
- Encouraged Zone delegates and CEO to email the Zone Chair with any updates or information relevant to the Zone's activities.
- Encouraged collaboration across the Zone.

7.2. ZONE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

7.2.1. Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) – Working Group Update

Shire of Kojonup CEO, Grant Thompson, and RDAGS, Designated Area Representative, Simon Lyas

Background

June 2022	Zone supports concept of a Designated Area Migration agreement and acknowledged that RDA Great Southern will act as Designated Area Representative.
Aug 2022	DAMA Working Group established by the Zone, to facilitate DAMA application and oversee migration consultant contract.
Jan 2023	Migration Consultant engaged – EY Global - to prepare DAMA Business Case and make application to Department of Home Affairs. RDA-GS supported and facilitated consultant's research and collection of data.
May 2023	DAMA Business Case application submitted to Department of Home Affairs (DoHA).
Sept 2023	Department of Home Affairs sought further information on several issues including Occupations, Skill Assessments, Evidence of Need for some occupations, Temporary Skilled Migrant Income Threshold (TSMIT), DAMA Concessions, Residency Pathways and Indigenous Consultation. RDA Great Southern and Consultant facilitated the required body of work.
Nov 2023	Revised Business Case submitted to Department of Home Affairs.

The DAMA Working Group met on 8 February 2024, with Simon Lyas advising the following RDAGS activities in support of progressing the DAMA application:

- Appointed Catherine Bailey, as Designated Area Representative Officer, to be the key point of contact for public and business enquiries.
- Continued to coordinate testimonies from regional employers evidencing the actual need for the Great Southern DAMA. These are forwarded to the Migration Consultant and to DoHA as a prompt for updates from their assessment team.
- Worked closely with the Migration Consultant to obtain additional information and undertake analysis necessary to update and resubmit the Business Case in November 2023.
- Maintained regular contact with DoHA assessment team to ensure awareness of the regional urgency for the DAMA to be approved.
- Lobbied Minister for Training, Workforce Development, Minister for Water and Minister for Industrial Relations. The Minister for Training, Workforce Development joined the Federal Minister for Immigration's ministerial migration roundtable in December 2023.

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- Office of Home Affairs website was updated 21 December 2023, stating “new DAMA requests are currently not being accepted at this time”. RDA has been assured by DoHA that this position does not include the Great Southern DAMA as this was submitted in May 2023.
- Since Jan 2024, RDA has been working with Adam Walker, Director Service Delivery Operations, Department of Training and Workforce Development – WA Government is collaborating with the Commonwealth Government to align Australia’s Migration Program with the national and specific needs of Western Australia. RDA has been asked to provide feedback on the State’s draft Discussion Paper.

Comment

The Working Group also considered the Migration Consultant’s claim \$12,360 (includes 3% admin and ex GST) incurred through the additional scope of work necessary to provide the further information and analysis requested by DoHA in September 2023.

This scope of work was not included in the Consultant’s original quote and was unforeseen, as it resulted from Commonwealth immigration policy changes that occurred in the latter part of 2023.

The additional work required related to:

- Consultation with Aboriginal community representatives.
- Analysis of Commonwealth’s updated Skills Priority List to ensure the occupations listed in the DAMA Business Case were aligned.
 - Required multiple consultations with DoHA, including ANZSCO codes for the occupation list.
 - Collated evidence and rationale for 30 occupations to remain on the Great Southern DAMA occupation list.
- Revised Business Case to include the required information and analysis.

The Working Group acknowledged this was a substantial body of work that would not have been possible without the support and many hours of work by the RDAGS team, particularly Renee Tan. The RDA’s efforts have assisted in mitigating further escalation of costs to the project.

It should also be noted that the Consultant logged 23.5 hours against the additional scope of work, which under the contracted hourly rates would incur \$16,262, however the Consultant has offered discounting so that the Zone will only be invoiced for \$12,360 (ex-GST). As can be seen in the below table the funds are available and no additional funds are required from LGA’s.

The Working group was able to verify that the work was undertaken, necessary for the business case to be finalised and that the work was outside the original scope and recommends the Great Southern Country Zone support this variation.

DAMA Project Financials are therefore as follows:

Contract: EY Global	Progress Payment	+ EY Admin Fee 3%	Payment Due (Ex. GST)	Payment Approved
1st Instalment - Phase 1 - <i>Inv. AU91AL00136362</i>	\$15,000	\$450	\$15,450	31/05/2023
2nd Instalment - Phase 2 - <i>Inv. AU91AL00136362</i>	\$15,000	\$450	\$15,450	31/05/2023
3rd Instalment - Phase 3 - <i>Inv. AU91AL00143906</i>	\$10,000	\$300	\$10,300	12/06/2023

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Additional Business Case Costs <i>(resulting from changes to Skills Priority List)</i>	\$12,000	\$360	\$12,360	tbc
Final Instalment - Phase 3	\$10,000	\$300	\$10,300	tbc
COSTS			\$63,860	
GSCZ, RDA, GSDC Contributions			\$70,000	
AVAILABLE BALANCE			\$6,140	

RDAGS's team has also recommended the Zone consider providing DoHA with additional testimonials and support to encourage the Department to prioritise the approval of the Great Southern DAMA or at least provide an interim approval.

The RDAGS advised it would be beneficial for the Great Southern Country Zone, to also provide feedback to the Department of Training and Workforce Development's Discussion Paper, as it provides an opportunity to advocate for the Great Southern DAMA and for the State to consider the specific needs of this Region.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Cynthia Wieringa
Seconded: Cr Paul Terry

That the Great Southern Country Zone:

1. **ACKNOWLEDGES** and appreciates the extensive work and expertise that has been dedicated by the team at Regional Development Australia – Great Southern in working with the appointed Migration Consultant to progress the Great Southern DAMA application.
2. **NOTES** the additional scope of work undertaken by the Migration Consultant, EY Global and **APPROVES** payment of the associated claim of \$12,360 (ex-GST).
3. **AUTHORISES** the Zone Chair to co-sign the Regional Development Authority Great Southern's submission on the Department of Training and Workforce Development's Discussion Paper on Western Australia's specific migration needs.
4. **REQUESTS** each Great Southern Country Zone Local Government:
 - a. Write to the Department of Home Affairs requesting prioritised and urgent approval of the Great Southern DAMA or the provision of an urgent interim approval; and
 - b. Obtain and forward to RDA-GS additional testimonials from local businesses to evidence the urgent regional need for the DAMA.

CARRIED

7.2.2. Zone Strategic Priorities - Workshop

Zone Executive Officer, Lyn Fogg

On 11 January 2024, the Zone Chair requested each Local Government identify local strategic issues to assist the Zone to identify its future strategic opportunities.

The below table provides the 'Top 3 Challenges' identified by member Local Governments in their presentations to the WALGA State Council during the Regional Forum in September 2023, plus additional strategic issues identified following the January 2024 request.

Broomehill – Tambellup	<p><u>Top 3 Challenges</u> (Sept 2023)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accommodation (key worker)• Attracting and retaining a skilled workforce and population• Servicing our youth <p><u>Additional Strategic issues:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wind farm legislation at a state level to guide development and set minimum requirements, such as distance from property boundaries;• Housing - cheaper headworks costs to develop new land;• Great Southern Highway widening and repairs;• Protection and/or upgrade of basic government services in rural areas, such as secondary education and health services;• Longer term funding opportunities for social services, especially youth related;• Incentives for essential retail provision where there is market failure, e.g. fuel, basic food items.
Cranbrook	<p><u>Top 3 Challenges</u> (Sept 2023)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Servicing the gateway to the Stirling Ranges• Tourism and worker accommodation• Emergency Management and Bush Fire risk mitigation
Denmark	<p><u>Top 3 Challenges</u> (Sep 2023)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Housing crisis – homelessness• Aging volunteer base• Accommodation - seasonal tourism demand and worker
Gnowangerup	<p><u>Top 3 Challenges</u> (Sep 2023)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Housing• Equitable share of State focus and funding• Attracting skilled workers
Jerramungup	<p><u>Top 3 Challenges</u> (Sep 2023)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical Centre for Bremer Bay• Marina expansion Bremer Bay• Town Centre Commercial land release Bremer Bay
Katanning	<p><u>Top 3 Challenges</u> (Sep 2023)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workforce accommodation• Workforce attraction and retention• Retaining key Government services
Kent	<p><u>Top 3 Challenges</u> (Sep 2023)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key Worker housing - lack of but also cost prohibitive to put on services on new developments, and also in the Shire of Kent, water corporation has a lack of water supply to be able to develop more blocks.• Attracting and retaining skilled workers

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- Maintaining the road network - lack of funding, and the inability of the funding to keep pace with the increase cost of works required to do the same jobs in previous years, also lack of planning by main roads to progress their main roads that feed and connect our Local Government areas.

Additional Strategic issues:

- Policy for renewable energy production. How do we safeguard our rate payers and community while allowing for development in this space.
- Education. there needs to be strategies to get teachers back out to Rural areas, like perhaps reintroducing the incentive schemes, level 3 schools are all struggling to attract teachers to their schools.

Kojonup

Top 3 Challenges (Sep 2023)

- Attracting and retaining skilled workers
- Emergency services (DFES) relationship with LGA / Voluntary Bush Fire Brigades
- Housing – key worker accommodation, prohibitive costs of headworks for new developments

Additional Strategic issues:

- Equality and suitability of educational opportunities for those living in regional areas.
- Upgrading the coverage and quality of digital communications.

Plantagenet

Top 3 Challenges (Sep 2023)

- Housing – quality and quantity
- Meeting and funding ratepayer expectations
- Bush fire mitigation activities

Additional Strategic issues:

- Land Use Planning renewable energy – tree farms / wind farms
- Emergency Services / Bush Fire Mitigation

Woodanilling

Top 3 Challenges (Sep 2023)

- Road Funding – RAV Networks
- Housing – worker and aged residents
- Water resources – agriculture, bush fire, stock and residents

The Zone's presentation to the WALGA State Council at the Regional Forum, included the following topics identified by the Zone as priority for all Zone members:

- Digital connectivity – blackspots and disaster resilience.
- Emergency Management servicing, resourcing and funding – CESMs and BRMCs.
- Bush Fire Mitigation Activity Fund – seeking changes to the funding criteria to enable more sustainable mitigation strategies to be implemented.
- Land use planning for renewable energy.
- Albany Bicentennial 2026 – regional tourism opportunities.

The priority and most common themes for Zone Members are therefore identified as:

- Housing / key worker accommodation – quality, supply, and prohibitive headworks costs
- Emergency Management and Bush Fire Mitigation
- Land use planning for renewable energy
- Attraction and retention of Skilled Workers
- Community and Government Services and funding – youth, aged, family
- Road funding – network safety
- Education – equity for regional services, alternative pathways, attract and retain teachers, etc.

- Digital connectivity – blackspots and disaster resilience
- Albany Bicentennial 2026 – regional tourism opportunities

The Zone Executive Officer will facilitate a workshop to assist the Zone to:

- identify potential actions at Zone and / or local level for each topic above; and
- then select three of topics for the Zone’s strategic focus in 2024.

Meeting Note:

It was AGREED to defer the workshop to be facilitated after the close of the meeting.

Workshop outcomes are provided as an attachment to the minutes and will be provided for formal consideration in the next Zone Agenda.

7.3. MATTERS FOR ZONE NOTING AND DECISION

Items submitted to the Agenda by Zone Members or the WALGA Secretariat for Zone consideration.

7.3.1. State Government Infrastructure Development Fund – Regional Housing / Headworks funding grants – closing 6 September 2024

Zone Executive Officer, Lyn Fogg

The Infrastructure Development Fund was established to unlock land and facilitate development and has three streams - a targeted apartment rebate, funding to unlock priority infill precincts and funding to support the delivery of regional worker accommodation.

Specific to Great Southern Country Zone Local Governments: Developers, landowners and local governments can apply for funding for proposed key worker accommodation projects within (or in the vicinity of) an existing regional centre, townsite or community.

Applications are open until 6 September 2024.

For eligibility guidelines and to apply, visit <https://www.wa.gov.au/infrastructure-development-fund>

Noted.

7.3.2. Regional Telecommunications Review 2024

Zone Executive Officer, Lyn Fogg

The 2024 Regional Telecommunications Review has now commenced.

The Regional Telecommunications Review occurs every 3 years and is an opportunity to examine the existing and future telecommunication needs in regional, rural and remote communities across Australia.

The 2024 Review Committee is to be chaired by Hon. Alannah MacTiernan, with [Terms of Reference](#) requiring the Committee to provide its report to the Commonwealth Minister for Communications by 31 December 2024.

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The Committee will soon announce its public consultation schedule, providing an opportunity for people living and working in regional, rural and remote areas of Australia to share their views and experiences using telecommunications services in their area.

Great Southern Zone Local Governments may wish to prepare submissions to the Review Committee.

Noted.

7.3.3. Trailblazing Funding Grants – closing 11 March 2024

Zone Executive Officer, Lyn Fogg

The State Government trailblazing funding program is offering grants of between \$5,000 to \$50,000 for new community-led trail projects in Western Australia.

Through the Community Trail Planning Grants Program, nature enthusiasts, adventure seekers and lovers of the WA landscape can bring to life ideas for new trail experiences with financial support totalling \$900,000 available over the next three years.

[Eligibility and application information](#) is available on the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries website.

Applications close 5pm 11 March 2024.

Noted.

7.3.4. Healthway's Healthy Schools Program Grants – closing 22 March 2024

Zone Executive Officer, Lyn Fogg

Minister for Health, Mental Health, Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson and Minister for Education, Hon Tony Butti, media release dated 1 February 2024, extracts:

“Schools and Parents and Citizens Associations can apply for individual grants of up to \$5,000 through Healthway's Healthy Schools Program for activities such as healthy lunchbox preparation workshops, promoting walking or bike riding to school, and mental health or vaping education activities.

The projects should aim to increase student health-related knowledge and skills, positively change health behaviours, improve student health and wellbeing, and create school environments that support good health through policy change.

Applications are strongly encouraged from rural and remote schools, and those with students representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds, culturally and linguistically diverse communities and/or those experiencing disadvantage.”

Applications close 22 March 2024 – applications via [Healthway's website](#).

Noted.

7.3.5. Road Safety Projects for the Great Southern Region

Zone Executive Officer, Lyn Fogg

Minister for Transport, Hon. Rita Saffioti and Minister for Road Safety, Hon David Michael, media release dated 4 February 2024, extracts:

“The State Labor Government is continuing its significant road safety investment in the Great Southern, with four more projects scheduled to commence under the landmark \$1 billion Regional Road Safety Program (RRSP) later this year.”

“The installation of these low-cost safety treatments is helping reduce the number of single vehicle run-off road crashes – one of the leading causes of death and serious injury on regional roads.”

“Around \$21 million is being invested to deliver the four new projects including:

- 48km of sealed shoulders and audible edge lines on Muir Highway*
- 34km of sealed shoulders and audible edge lines on Albany Highway*
- 28km of sealed shoulders and audible edge lines on Albany Lake Grace Road*
- Four kilometres of audible edge lines on Donnybrook Kojonup Road”*

Noted.

7.3.6. Local Government Transport and Roads Research and Innovation Program

Zone Executive Officer, Lyn Fogg

WALGA, with support from MRWA and the National Transport Research Organisation (NTRO), established the Local Government Transport and Roads Research and Innovation Program (LG TRRIP) to deliver research projects that have a direct practical application to the work of Local Governments. The program is funded through the State Roads Funds to Local Government Agreement.

WALGA and NTRO are hosting online interactive workshops to gather information from Local Government practitioners on area of research that are most needed and / or would be most beneficial. The specific areas of focus are:

- Roads and Pavements
- Recycling, Sustainability / Circular Economy
- Road Safety
- Asset Management
- Bridges and Structures
- Transport

Online Workshops: **Tuesday, 27 February OR Friday 1 March, 10am – 12pm.**

Please register using the following link: <https://forms.office.com/r/AxLbhGh174>

For more information on LG TRRIP, visit [Infrastructure | WALGA](#)

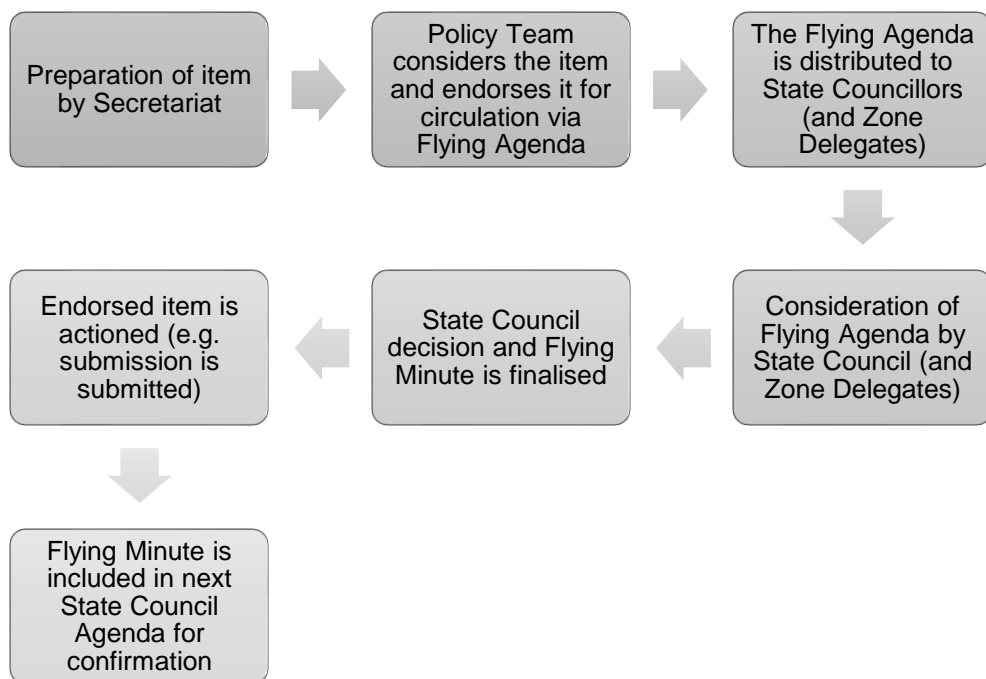
Noted.

7.3.7. State Council Flying Agenda Process

By Kathy Robertson, Manager Corporate and Association Governance

State Council has five ordinary meetings per year. As a result, there are occasions when decisions need to be made or submissions need to be endorsed to meet external deadlines which do not fit within the existing State Council meeting schedule.

The first preference is always to seek an extension of time to enable the item to be considered by Zones and State Council through the usual Agenda process. However, if an extension of time is not granted, the item will need to be endorsed by State Council by way of a Flying Agenda. The process for a Flying Agenda is summarised below:



Flying Agendas are generally open to responses for 7 days.

At the request of State Council, the Flying Agenda process has recently been amended to better include Zone Delegates in the decision-making process. The Zone Executive Officer will alert Delegates via email when a Flying Agenda is out for consideration by State Council and request that any comments or feedback be directed to the Zone's State Council representative(s). State Councillors are then able to consider the feedback of Zone Delegates when making their final decision.

Please note that any comments or feedback sent directly to WALGA, rather than the Zone's State Council representative(s), will not go towards the Flying Agenda. There is no requirement to respond to an email circulating a Flying Agenda, however if you would like to contribute this should be directed to your State Council representative(s).

All completed Flying Minutes are available to view on the WALGA website [here](#), and are included in the subsequent State Council Agenda as both previous Minutes (for confirmation) and as an Item for Noting.

For any questions about the State Council Flying Agenda process, please contact Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance on krobertson@walga.asn.au or (08) 9213 2036.

Noted.

7.3.8. 2024 Local Government Honours Program

By Meghan Dwyer, Executive Officer Governance

The annual Local Government Honours Program affords public recognition and celebration of the outstanding achievements and lasting contributions made by Elected Members and Local Government officers to their respective Councils, the WA Local Government sector and the wider community.

There are six awards in the 2024 Program:

1. Local Government Medal
2. Life Membership
3. Eminent Service Award
4. Merit Award
5. Local Government Distinguished Officer Award
6. Young Achievers Award

Nominations will open on **Friday, 8 March 2024** and close at **5:00pm on Friday, 31 May 2024**.

Details on the 2024 Honours Program and Nomination Forms will be available from Friday, 8 March 2024 on the [WALGA website](#).

For more information contact Meghan Dwyer, Executive Officer Governance, on 9213 2050 or via email at honours@walga.asn.au.

Meeting Note:

Mr Tony Brown provided a presentation.

Noted.

8. WALGA STATE COUNCIL BUSINESS

8.1. ZONE STATE COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT

Zone State Councillor, Cr Scott Crosby

Cr Scott Crosby provided an update on the December 2023 State Council Meeting, Strategic Forum and his participation in the People and Place Policy Team.

Noted.

8.2. STATE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA – MATTERS FOR DECISION

Attachment No. 5 [State Council Agenda – via WALGA website link: 6 March 2024](#)

WALGA State Council meets five times each year. State Council's consideration of items is informed through consultation with Zone Member Local Governments.

The Zone, by resolution, may provide comment or submit an amended or alternative recommendation that is then presented to the State Council for consideration.

STATE COUNCIL Item 8.1 Separation (Centre) and Edge Line Markings by Local Government on Low Volume Rural Roads

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA endorse the below Advocacy Position:

1. Main Roads Western Australia allow Local Governments to install edge line and separation (centre) line markings on roads that meet all relevant criteria, but do not meet the criterion on traffic volume.
2. For this exemption, Local Governments must adhere to the following conditions:
 - a. The Local Government contact Main Roads via the Regional Network Manager with their intent to undertake line marking on specific roads that do not meet the traffic volume criterion, but meet all the other criteria.
 - b. The Local Government obtain a Council resolution, committing to fund all installation and maintenance costs.
 - c. Local Government undertake spotting/surveying.
 - d. Main Roads to undertake an inspection following the survey/spotting work, confirm the start and finish points for the longitudinal line markings, and record the sections of road with line markings to be maintained by Local Government in the relevant database.
 - e. Main Roads approve the final layout prior to line marking occurring.
 - f. Local Government undertake the works.
 - g. Local Government maintain the works in accordance with Main Roads WA standards.
 - h. Local Government remove the lines if maintenance works are not performed to the standard.

Executive Summary

- The Main Roads WA warrant does not currently allow edge line or separation (centre) line markings on Local Government roads that carry less than certain traffic volume thresholds.
- Local Governments would like to enhance the safety of their roads by installing line markings in instances where only the traffic volume criterion under the warrant is not met.
- A process is proposed in this item whereby Local Governments would pay for the installation and maintenance and Main Roads would perform the necessary inspections to ensure that the markings adhere to the applicable standard.
- Local Governments would not be required to undertake these works, but rather would have the option to install line markings on qualifying roads that do not meet the traffic volume criterion at their own cost.

STATE COUNCIL Item 8.2 Recovered Materials Framework Advocacy Position

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA:

1. Rescind the existing *WALGA Standards for Recycled Organics Applied to Land Policy Statement 2007* and Advocacy Position 7.9:

Local Government:

1. Acknowledges the benefits of applying recycled organics to land, especially as a means of diverting organic material from landfill; and,

2. Supports the development of standards for applying recycled organics to land, to ensure a fit for purpose product is developed.

2. Endorse a new *Recovered Materials Framework* Advocacy Position as follows:

The use of recovered materials, across a range of applications, is essential in reducing the use of basic raw materials, meeting State Waste Strategy Targets and increasing diversion of waste from landfill. To ensure end users have high confidence in the quality and safety of products derived from recovered materials, consistent, outcomes-based standards and investment certainty are required.

The State Government, in consultation with Local Government and the waste management industry, should take a leadership role in facilitating the use of recovered material by:

1. Developing a regulatory framework which:
 - a. Outlines clear, outcomes-based specifications for individual products which take into consideration the receiving environment and allow for site-specific assessment.
 - b. Minimises risk to human health and the environment from the use of recovered material.
 - c. Establishes robust systems to provide quality assurance and ongoing surveillance throughout the supply chain.
2. Providing guidance and support mechanisms for the successful implementation of the framework.
3. Supporting the development of, and access to, sustainable end markets and long-term offtake agreements through initiatives such as active engagement with potential end users and the inclusion of recovered material content targets in Government procurement and large infrastructure projects.

Executive Summary

- The [Standards for Recycled Organics Applied to Land Policy Statement 2007](#) was developed at a time when the main option for landfill diversion of organic material in Western Australia was through mixed waste Alternative Waste Treatment (AWT) facilities.
- The Policy Statement provides principles for the development of standards for recycled organics applied to land, however these principles are potentially broadly applicable to any recovered material applied to land.
- The approach taken is that the principles/approach in the Policy Statement have been reviewed and used to inform the development of the Recovered Materials Framework Advocacy Position.
- The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation is developing a Recovered Materials Framework to cover the application of recovered materials to land.
- The Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) endorsed the new Advocacy Position in December 2023.

STATE COUNCIL Item 8.3 Review of *Cemeteries Act 1986* and *Cremation Act 1929* Discussion Paper

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA:

1. **Supports the intent of the Review of Cemeteries Act 1986 and Cremation Act 1929 Discussion Paper to reduce red tape, modernise legislation and standardise administrative practices; and**
2. **Advocates that Local Government cemetery managers retain the capacity to impose cemetery fees and charges under Part 6 of the Local Government Act.**

Executive Summary

- The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries released the Review of *Cemeteries Act 1986* and *Cremation Act 1929* Discussion Paper in November 2023 for public submission.
- WALGA was granted an extension to the submission closing period of **16 February 2024** to permit sector involvement in providing feedback from the Zone process and State Council consideration.

ZONE NOTE: The Department of Local Government advised the sector on 14 February 2024 that the submission period has been extended to **15 March 2024**. Local Governments with responsibility for cemeteries are encouraged to provide submissions.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Dale Douglas
Seconded: Cr Janine Phillips

That the Great Southern Country Zone SUPPORTS the Matters for Decision as detailed in the 6 March 2024 State Council Agenda provided as Attachment No.4, inclusive of:

1. **Item 8.1 Separation (Centre) and Edge Line Markings by Local Government on Low Volume Rural Roads**
2. **Item 8.2 Recovered Materials Framework Advocacy Position**
3. **Item 8.3 Review of *Cemeteries Act 1986* and *Cremation Act 1929* Discussion Paper.**

CARRIED

8.2.2. Matters for Noting

State Council Agenda 'Matters for Noting', are provide for Zone consideration and noting.

STATE COUNCIL Item 9 – Policy Team Reports

- 9.1 Environment Team Report
- 9.2 Governance Policy Team Report
- 9.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report
- 9.4 People and Place Policy Team Report
- 9.5 Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report

STATE COUNCIL Item 10 – Matters for Noting / Information

- 10.1 2024-25 Federal Budget Submission
- 10.2 Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan (EM-SAP) Local Government Consultation Project

STATE COUNCIL Item 11 – Organisational Reports

- 11.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio
- 11.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio
- 11.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio
- 11.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio

Noted.

8.2.3. WALGA State President’s Report

Attachment No. 6 WALGA State President’s Report – separate attachment.

Deputy President WALGA State Council, Cr Paul Kelly presented the State President’s Report.

Noted.

9. EMERGING ISSUES / COLLABORATION

Zone Members are encouraged to provide a brief update on emerging issues in their District or matters on which they are seeking to connect with other Zone Members for direct collaboration or support.

Shire of Katanning:

President Cr Kristy D’April noted the decline in livestock industry, including proposed live export restrictions, are a major impact on regional communities.

City of Albany:

Mayor Greg Stocks noted:

- City is awaiting Lotterywest funding approval for 2026 Bicentennial Events calendar.
- Sandford Road roundabout - delayed due to delays in Western Power asset relocation approvals.
- JDAP decision to approve Middleton Beach hotel (69 bed) development.
- Woolstores Structure Plan to be considered at next Council meeting, includes provisions for 2 further hotels, residential and commercial developments.

Shire of Kojonup:

- Shire is in final due diligence for appointing a new manager for their aged care facility.
- Local Planning Policy for Renewable Energy developments – developed in collaboration with the Shire of Dumbleyung. Key issues for Local Governments include:
 - Impact on gravel supplies available for road works.
 - Damage to roads, not constructed for heavy haulage required during construction of renewable energy developments.
 - Developer offers of community funds, should be considered in context of once off funding for long-term asset development and the period of time that the developer will operate in the District.

Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup:

- Agreed with need for Local Planning Policy to address impact of Renewable Energy developments.

10. NEXT ZONE MEETING

The next meeting of the Great Southern Country Zone is scheduled to be held on: **Friday, 19 April 2024 at the Shire of Denmark.**

11. CLOSURE

The Chair closed the meeting at **11.35am.**

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT No.2 Refers Item 5.7 – WALGA Regional Road Safety Advisor Report – February 2024

[Back to Item 5.7](#)

RoadWise Report – Great Southern

The RoadWise Program was reviewed last year, and a new approach introduced called Road Councils. The new approach is underpinned by the RoadWise Framework and is aimed at engaging and supporting Local Governments to adopt and apply policies and practices lead to better road safety outcomes.

The RoadWise Framework has been developed to support the application of the Safe System approach to the local road network, which directly supports one of the three new commitments within the *State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement 2023/24 – 2027/28*.

Since invitations to register as a RoadWise Council went out in August 2023:

- 54 (7 Great Southern) Local Governments have registered as a RoadWise Council.
- 70% registered with a resolution of Council (5 in Great Southern)
- 30% registered with a Declaration signed by the Shire President/Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer. (2 in Great Southern)
- Participating Local Governments are spread across all ten Regional Road Group regions.
- 37 or 71% of registered RoadWise Council have recorded the delivery of road safety activity aligned with the RoadWise Council Framework in the first few months (100% in Great Southern)
- 3 spaces remain for Local Governments in the Great Southern to register as a RoadWise Council.

Great Southern Secondary Freight Route – Route Safety Assessment

The GSSFR Engineering Methodology was recently reviewed by the Regional Road Group Technical Working Group. The Methodology includes a route safety assessment, a proactive approach that measures safety based on the road features rather than crash data. Crash data does not accurately predict crash potential in regional areas where the traffic volume is low. Over 50% of killed or serious injury crashes in the Great Southern are the result of single vehicle run-off, they are typically caused by inattention and fatigue and can occur anywhere on the network. The crash outcome is largely determined by the road features.

Local Government Road Safety Vanguard program – 3 Day Course 30 April – 2 May 2024

Main Roads WA delivers the Workshop in partnership with the WA Local Government Association for local government officers and elected members to gain knowledge of contemporary approaches to road safety, and how to use this information to improve safety on the road network.

A three-day workshop will be held in Bunbury, where participants will learn from road safety practitioners and experts about ways to improve local road safety and what can work to influence decision making.

To register, go to our Eventbrite page at [Local Government Road Safety Vanguards 2024 Tickets, Tue, Apr 30, 2024 at 8:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Local Government Works Manager Network

The Great Southern Works Managers Networks has been re-established by Peter Vlahov, Shire of Broomehill Tambellup. The network has agreed to rotate hosting the quarterly meetings and the next meeting will be hosted by Shire of Plantagenet. Guest speakers from Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions and the Environmental Officer from the Shire of Jerramungup will present on roadside vegetation management. Presentations are also being done by YongaCivil an Aboriginal owned, West Australian company engaged in civil construction. The Shire of Plantagenet are presenting on *SiteDocs* incident reporting system and Definitiv for timesheet management.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT No.3 Refers Item 6.2 Zone Status Report for February 2024

[Back to item 6.2](#)

Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
24 November 2023 Zone Agenda Item 8.3.2. Appeal for Remedial Action on Education Policy and Procedures in Country Schools	<p>That the Western Australian Local Government Association Great Southern Zone (WALGA) request that WALGA strongly advocates to the Department of Education (Department) on behalf of rural and remote districts that greater efforts be made to reduce the inequality of educational opportunity with particular reference to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Department makes available resources for intervention in the experience of students specifically disaffected by the current model of schooling who are disruptive, falling behind and at risk of failing to learn to read, write and work in basic arithmetic; including intensive attention combined with health and like issues and more active, empathic, and practical instruction. 2. That the Department makes available the current resources of Distant Education and/or enables families to access similar private providers for secondary education in order that students can study for an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank), or other subjects of their own choosing, using internet resources and mentors provided in the schools closest to them; and 3. That the Department subsidises housing suitable for teachers or enables local governments to build and manage such housing. 	Referred to the People and Place Policy Team for consideration.	February 2024	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039</p>
25 November 2022 Zone Agenda Item 6 Confirmation of Previous Minutes	That the Great Southern Zone requests WALGA to advocate for the upgrade of existing infrastructure [telecommunication] (towers).	<p>The Association continues to advocate for Federal and State Governments to work with telecommunications carriers to provide appropriate telecommunications services. During February the WALGA President, Deputy President, CEO and staff met with senior officers from the Department of Communications.</p> <p>The three yearly Regional Telecommunications Review has commenced and consultation will occur from April. WALGA is working to ensure that the Review Committee engage directly with</p>	February 2024	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031</p>

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		Local Governments that are interested in regional telecommunications.		
25 November 2022 Zone Agenda Item 6.2 Zone Status Report	That the Great Southern Zone request WALGA to advocate for a review of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA, WA) to reduce the extensive delays in the reporting system.	<p>In response to requests from WALGA, DFES staff undertook a series of consultation meetings with Regional Road Groups and on-line webinars to hear issues being experienced by Local Governments dealing with the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.</p> <p>WALGA has continued to highlight that there are more than 30 claims in process, some dating back to 2021 that need to be resolved and progressed. During February DFES officers met with officers from many of the impacted Local Governments to progress the claims. Finding acceptable evidence of previous condition, maintenance and impact of the event is challenging.</p> <p>There is a commitment from DFES to finalise the legacy claims by the end of the current financial year.</p>	February 2024	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au <u>u</u> 9213 2031
25 August 2023 Zone Agenda Item 7.3.1 Western Power Headworks – Lead time for quotes	That the Great Southern Country Zone request WALGA advocacy to State Government to reduce the time taken for Western Power to provide quotes to a maximum of three months.	<p>The Infrastructure Policy Team considered this matter in December and resolved that WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. seeks information from Local Governments on current timeframes for quotations from Western Power and the impacts of the extended times to obtain quotations; and 2. writes to the Western Power Chief Executive Officer based on the information provided, highlighting the impacts and seeking a commitment to provide quotes for a range of standard services within three months. <p>Data has been sourced from Metropolitan Local Governments. Further information is still to be sought from rural and regional Local Governments serviced by Western Power.</p>	February 2024	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au <u>u</u> 9213 2031

ATTACHMENT No.4 Refers Item 6.2 Zone Action Items Report for February 2024

[Back to Item 6.2](#)

Great Southern Country Zone – ACTION ITEMS				
ZONE MEETING DATE / ITEM	ZONE RESOLUTION	ZONE RESPONSE	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
2023, 24 November Item 8.1.2 Zone Chairperson’s Report	<p>ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zone Executive Officer to liaise with City of Albany to confirm if a Zone meeting with the Community Cabinet is viable. If so, Zone Executive Officer to identify potential topics for discussion with Community Cabinet based upon the Zone’s September 2023 Regional State Council presentation, aligned with the WALGA State Budget Submission and circulate the proposal to Zone. Zone Executive Officer, in consultation with the Chair to coordinate an online special meeting of the Zone to facilitate arrangements for the Zone’s meeting with Community Cabinet. 	<p>23 Feb 2024 – Refer Item 6.1.1 - The Zone Executive Officer appreciates the support of City of Albany CEO, Andrew Sharpe, who made the request on behalf of the Zone, for Zone representatives to meet with the State Government Cabinet during the Community Cabinet meeting in Albany on 6 February 2024.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the Department of Premier and Cabinet was unable to accommodate the request on this occasion.</p>	COMPLETED GSCZ 23/02/2024	Zone Executive Officer Lyn Fogg
2023, 25 August Item 7.3.1 Western Power Headworks – Lead Time for Quotes	ACTION ITEM: Shire of Katanning to provide a Zone report detailing similar concerns arising from Landgate processes. Shires of Kojonup and Gnowangerup to contribute examples for inclusion in this report.	<p>6 Sep 2023: Emailed Katanning CEO.</p> <p>23 Feb 2024: Refer item 7.2.2 - This Action Item to be removed, as the subject is included in the Zone’s consideration of strategic priorities to be considered at item 7.2.2 of the 23 Feb 2024 agenda.</p>	COMPLETED GSCO 23/02/2024	Zone Executive Officer Lyn Fogg
2022, 26 Aug Item 7.2.1 Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA)	That a working group consisting of three Great Southern Local Government Authority CEOs from the Shires of Kojonup, Katanning and Plantagenet, and the Great Southern Country Zone President, be established to progress the DAMA on behalf of all committed Great Southern Local Governments.	<p>Working Group Terms of Reference conclude as at 28 October 2022.</p> <p>GSCZ 28/10/2022 - refer item 7.2.4 -Resolution to extend Charter: 10. Endorse the Great Southern Country Zone DAMA Working Group Charter being extended to include review and recommendation to the Zone of the Draft Business Case.</p>	ONGOING	DAMA Working Group (Zone)

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Great Southern Country Zone – ACTION ITEMS				
ZONE MEETING DATE / ITEM	ZONE RESOLUTION	ZONE RESPONSE	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
	<p><u>DAMA Working Group Charter:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recommending the committed Local Government’s consult with their respective industries on skill shortages and gather supporting evidence by Friday, 23 Sept 2022. 2. (a) Review the other WA DAMA business cases and their learnings to determine our process and next steps; and (b) Prepare a draft budget and scope of works for the business case and prepare a shortlist of suitable contractors to quote on the business case by 17 Oct 2022. 3. Prepare the final report with recommendations for the next Great Southern Country Zone meeting on Friday, 28 October 2022. <p>The meeting AGREED that the DAMA Working Group meetings should include representation from the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) and Regional Development Australia Great Southern (RDA-GS)</p>	<p>23 Jun 2023 – Phase 3 of the EY consultancy has been completed (business case submitted to Dpt of Home Affairs). Working Group will be wound up subject to any additional work required following feedback from the Dept / Minister – expected late June 2023.</p> <p>23 Feb 2024 – Refer item 7.2.1 – update on DAMA application with DoHA</p>		
<p>2022, 28 Oct Item 7.2.4 Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) Project</p>	<p>7. Endorse the Shire of Kojonup CEO and the Regional Development Authority Great Southern Inc CEO to act jointly as the Zone representatives for communication between the consultant and the Zone and member Local Governments to facilitate preparation of the Business Plan.</p>	<p>21 Apr 2023: Phase 1 and 2 of the EY consultancy have been completed – refer DAMA Working Group and RDAGS reports at the April 2023 meeting.</p> <p>23 Jun 2023 – Phase 3 of the EY consultancy has been completed (business case submitted to Dpt of Home Affairs). Item completion will be subject to any additional work required following feedback from the Dept / Minister – expected late June 2023.</p> <p>24 Nov 2023 – Updated Business Case submitted to DoHA.</p> <p>23 Feb 2024 – Refer item 7.2.1 – update on DAMA application with DoHA.</p>	ONGOING	Kojonup CEO RDAGS CEO