



# Northern Country Zone MINUTES

## Monday 26 June 2023

Hosted by the Shire of Carnamah  
Carnamah Bowling Club  
commencing at 10am



<b>1.</b>	<b>OPENING, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> .....	<b>3</b>
1.1.1	Opening.....	3
1.1.2	Acknowledgment of Country.....	3
1.1.3	Welcome.....	3
1.1.4	Announcements.....	3
<b>2.</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS</b> .....	<b>5</b>
3.1	Department of Fire and Emergency Services.....	5
3.2	WA Country Health Service.....	5
3.3	Shire of Carnamah.....	6
<b>4.</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>ADJOURNED BUSINESS</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>MINUTES</b> .....	<b>6</b>
6.1	Confirmation of Minutes.....	6
6.2	Business Arising from Minutes.....	6
<b>7.</b>	<b>STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION</b> .....	<b>6</b>
7.1	(SC7.1) Review of Urban Forest Advocacy Position.....	7
7.2	(SC7.2) State Planning Policy 3.7 Bushfire.....	7
7.3	(SC7.3) Reforming WA Disability Legislation Submission.....	8
7.4	(SC7.4) Landfill Bans Advocacy Position.....	9
7.5	(SC7.5) Audit Experience Survey Results Summary and Advocacy Position.....	9
7.6	(SC7.6) Amendments to WALGA's Constitution.....	10
<b>8a</b>	<b>STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION</b> .....	<b>11</b>
8a.1	(SC9.1) Flying Minute – Submission to 2023 State Wage Case.....	11
8a.2	(SC9.2) Environmental Protection Amendment Regulations 2022: Consultation Response.....	11
8a.3	(SC9.3) Local Government Performance Monitoring Project.....	12
8a.4	(SC9.4) Street Lighting Tariffs.....	12
8a.5	(SC9.5) 2023-24 Federal and State Budgets.....	12
8a.6	(SC9.6) Update on the Commencement of the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021</i> .....	13
8a.7	(SC9.7) State Award Variations Impacting on Local Governments.....	13
<b>8b</b>	<b>WALGA MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION</b> .....	<b>14</b>
8b.1	Review of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007: Stage 3 Review.....	14
<b>9.</b>	<b>REPORTS</b> .....	<b>16</b>
9.1	Zone President's Report June 2023.....	16
9.2	WALGA State Council Representative's Report June 2023.....	16
9.3	WALGA President's Report July 2023.....	18
9.4	Zone Status Report June 2023.....	18
9.5	Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Update.....	18
<b>10.</b>	<b>ZONE MATTERS FOR NOTING/DECISION</b> .....	<b>18</b>
10.1	Correspondence.....	18
10.1.1	Correspondence Out.....	18
10.1.2	Correspondence In.....	18
10.2	Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 31 May 2023.....	19
10.3	Budget 2023-2024.....	20
<b>11.</b>	<b>GENERAL BUSINESS</b> .....	<b>22</b>
11.1	Call to Guests to Address the Meeting.....	22
11.2	Regional Issue.....	22
11.2.1	Renewable Energy Developments – Community Engagement.....	22
11.3	Regional Tourism Initiatives.....	24
11.4	Other General Business.....	24
<b>12.</b>	<b>DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING</b> .....	<b>24</b>
<b>13.</b>	<b>MEETING CLOSURE</b> .....	<b>24</b>

## ATTACHMENTS TO THE MINUTES

- Item 3.2: Midwest Mental Health and Community Drug and Alcohol Service Presentation
- Item 6: Minutes of the Flying Minute Meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA 24 April 2023
- Item 7/8: WALGA State Council Agenda 5 July 2023
- Item 8b.1: WALGA Draft submission - BAM Act Review Stage 3 June 2023 V3
- Item 9.3: WALGA President's Report July 2023
- Item 9.4: Northern Country Zone Status Report June 2023
- Item 9.5: DLGSC Update May 2023
- Item 10.1.2: Correspondence In:
  - a. WALGA – DFES Roadwork Review 2023 – Survey
  - b. WALGA – Invitation to join WALGA State Award Working Group/Information Webinar/Terms of Reference
  - c. RDA Newsletter
  - d. WALGA – Flying Agenda Consistent Local Planning Schemes Planning Reform
  - e. Peter Kenyon – Community Builders North Midland and Surrounds Update Email/Flyer
  - f. Stephanie Godrich – Food Community Project Midwest Email/Flyer/Poster
- Item 10.2: Bank Statements April/May 2023
- Item 11.2.1: Renewable Energy Development – Community Engagement Issues Paper

***Zone Delegates were requested to provide written notice on amendments to recommendations within the State Council agenda ASAP to the Zone President and Secretariat, to allow Zone Members time to consider the alternative recommendation. None were received.***

---

## 1. OPENING, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

### 1.1.1 Opening

The Meeting was declared open at 10:01 am.

### 1.1.2 Acknowledgment of Country

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA acknowledges 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 President welcomed members and guests.

### 1.1.4 Announcements

Nil

---

## 2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

---

### MEMBERS

**NB: One Voting Delegate from each Member Council**

#### Shire of Carnamah

Cr Merle Isbister - President  
Mr Rob Paull - Acting Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

#### Shire of Chapman Valley

Mr Jamie Criddle - Chief Executive Officer (Proxy)

<b>Shire of Coorow</b>	Cr Moira Girando - President Ms Mia Maxfield - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
<b>City of Greater Geraldton</b>	Cr Jerry Clune - Deputy Mayor Mr Ross McKim - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
<b>Shire of Irwin</b>	Cr Isabelle Scott - Deputy President Mr Shane Ivers - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
<b>Shire of Mingenew</b>	Cr Gary Cosgrove - President Mr Matt Fanning - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
<b>Shire of Morawa</b>	Cr Karen Chappel - President Mr Scott Wildgoose - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
<b>Shire of Northampton</b>	Mr Andrew Campbell Chief Executive Officer (Proxy)
<b>Shire of Perenjori</b>	Cr Chris King - President
<b>Shire of Three Springs</b>	Cr Chris Lane - President Mr Keith Woodward - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
<b>EXECUTIVE</b>	Ms Dianne Daniels - Executive Officer Mr Chris Hossen - WALGA Policy Manager Planning and Building Mr Kieran McGovern - WALGA Policy Officer Planning
<b>INVITED GUESTS</b>	
Member for Moore	Mr Shane Love MLA
Regional Development Midwest Gascoyne	Ms Yvonne Messina - Chair 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 - Regional Manager Mid West-Gascoyne
Mid West Development Commission	Mr Mike Bowley – Director of Regional Development Mr Jose Silva – Senior Regional Development Officer
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Mr Mark Bowen AFSM – Superintendent Midwest Gascoyne
WA Country Health Service	Ms Liz Lockyer – Mental Health Promotion Coordinator
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	
Mid West Development Commission	Mr Nils Hay - Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Chapman Valley	Cr Kirrilee Warr - President

Shire of Irwin	Cr Mike Smith
Shire of Mingenew	Cr Hellene McTaggart
City of Greater Geraldton	Mayor Shane Van Styn
Shire of Northampton	Cr Elizabeth (Liz) Sudlow - President Cr Robert Horstman - Deputy President
Shire of Perenjori	Cr Jude Sutherland - Deputy President Mr Paul Anderson - Chief Executive Officer
Member for Geraldton	Ms Lara Dalton MLA
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Sandra Carr MLC
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon Darren West MLC
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon Steve Martin MLC
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon Shelley Payne MLC
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon Colin De Grussa MLC

---

### **3. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

---

#### **3.1 Department of Fire and Emergency Services**

Mr Mark Bowen AFSM                                      Superintendent Midwest Gascoyne Region

Mr Bowen gave a brief introduction of himself and his role and called for questions from the floor. The subjects of the New Fire Rating System, weather districts within local government areas and various funding allocations (ELS, Mitigation, CESM) were discussed.

#### **3.2 WA Country Health Service**

*Attachment: MHandCADS Presentation*

Ms Liz Lockyer                                      Mental Health Promotion Coordinator, Midwest Mental Health and  
Community Drug and Alcohol Service

Ms Lockyer outlined what services and support that the Midwest Mental Health and Community Drug and Alcohol Service can provide to local governments in the region in the area of suicide prevention, mental health promotion and alcohol and other drug harm reduction. She provided member CEOs with resources in relation to this.

### **3.3 Shire of Carnamah**

Cr Merle Isbister  
Mr Rob Paull

Shire President  
Chief Executive Officer

Cr Isbister and Mr Paull gave a presentation highlighting community facilities and projects supported by the Shire along with current initiatives.

---

### **4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

---

Nil

---

### **5. ADJOURNED BUSINESS**

---

Nil

---

### **6. MINUTES**

---

*Attachments: Minutes of the Flying Minute Meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA 24 April 2023*

#### **6.1 Confirmation of Minutes**

**Recommendation:**

That the Minutes of the Flying Minute meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 24 April 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Girando

**Seconded:** Cr Cosgrove

That the Minutes of the Flying Minute meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 24 April 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

**Carried**

#### **6.2 Business Arising from Minutes**

Nil

---

### **7. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION**

---

*The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for*

*The Matters for Decision in the State Council agenda are numbered 7.1 to 7.6*

*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 (SC7.1) Review of Urban Forest Advocacy Position**

*Prepared by: Chris Hossen, Policy Manager, Planning and Building*

### **WALGA Recommendation:**

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

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

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

### **Executive Summary:**

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

### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Girando

**Seconded:** Cr Cosgrove

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 7.1.

**Carried**

## **7.2 (SC7.2) State Planning Policy 3.7 Bushfire**

*Prepared by: Chris Hossen, Policy Manager, Planning and Building*

### **WALGA Recommendation:**

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

### Executive Summary:

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

#### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Isbister

**Seconded:** Cr Lane

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

**Carried**

### **7.3 (SC7.3) Reforming WA Disability Legislation Submission**

*Prepared by: Alina Hobson, Policy Officer Community*

#### **WALGA Recommendation:**

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

### Executive Summary:

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

#### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Clune

**Seconded:** Cr Scott

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

**Carried**



## **7.4 (SC7.4) Landfill Bans Advocacy Position**

*Prepared by: Rebecca Brown, Manager, Waste and Environment*

### **WALGA Recommendation:**

That WALGA endorse the following Landfill Ban Advocacy Position:

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

### **Executive Summary:**

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

### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Lane

**Seconded:** Cr Isbister

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

**Carried**

## **7.5 (SC7.5) Audit Experience Survey Results Summary and Advocacy Position**

*Prepared by: Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services*

### **WALGA Recommendation:**

That:

1. State Council note the Audit Experience Survey Results Summary; and
2. WALGA advocate to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) to reform the audit process for Local Governments by seeking:
  - a. Audits of Local Governments are completed and reported on in a timely manner and that the processes, procedures and scope of audits are consistently applied.
  - b. That the OAG review the requirements for pre-audit information with a view to reducing the need for additional information where possible;
  - c. That the OAG review their costing formulae for Local Government audits and show constraint in audit cost increases;
  - d. That the OAG provide a breakdown on the cost of the audit and justification for any variance to the estimate to the Local Government as part of the final billing process;
  - e. That auditors be required to improve their communication and information management and avoid repeated requests for information that has already been provided;

- f. That Local Governments only be required to communicate with contract Auditors (*unless the OAG is directly auditing the Local Government*) and the onus be placed on the contract Auditors to confirm their advice with the OAG before instructing the Local Government; and
- g. In-conjunction with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, review the application of Fair Value principles in the context of the audit.

**Executive Summary:**

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

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Clune

**Seconded:** Cr King

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

**Carried**

**7.6 (SC7.6) Amendments to WALGA's Constitution**

*Prepared by: Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services*

**WALGA Recommendation:**

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

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

VOTING REQUIREMENT: 75% SPECIAL MAJORITY

**Executive Summary:**

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

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

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 7.6.

**Carried**

---

**8a STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION**

---

*The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 5 July 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.*

**8a.1 (SC9.1) Flying Minute – Submission to 2023 State Wage Case**

*Prepared by: Davina Hunter, Employee Relations Service Manager*

**WALGA Recommendation:**

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

**Executive Summary:**

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

**8a.2 (SC9.2) Environmental Protection Amendment Regulations 2022: Consultation Response**

*Prepared by: Chris Hossen, Policy Manager, Planning and Building*

**WALGA Recommendation:**

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

**Executive Summary:**

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

- The consultation response was endorsed by the People and Place Policy Team and submitted to DWER on 14 April 2023.

### **8a.3 (SC9.3) Local Government Performance Monitoring Project**

*Prepared by: Chris Hossen, Policy Manager, Planning and Building*

#### **WALGA Recommendation:**

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

#### **Executive Summary:**

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

### **8a.4 (SC9.4) Street Lighting Tariffs**

*Prepared by: Dana Mason, Manager Economics*

#### **WALGA Recommendation:**

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

#### **Executive Summary:**

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

### **8a.5 (SC9.5) 2023-24 Federal and State Budgets**

*Prepared by: Daniel Thomson, Economist*

**WALGA Recommendation:**

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

**Executive Summary:**

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

**8a.6 (SC9.6) Update on the Commencement of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021***

*Prepared by: Hannah Godsave, Senior Policy Advisor Community*

**WALGA Recommendation:**

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

**Executive Summary:**

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

**8a.7 (SC9.7) State Award Variations Impacting on Local Governments**

*Prepared by: Davina Hunter, Employee Relations Service Manager*

**WALGA Recommendation:**

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

**Executive Summary:**

- On 1 January 2023, a majority of Local Governments and Regional Councils were required to transition from the Federal industrial relations (IR) system to the State IR system due to a change in State legislation.
- Both the Federal and State IR systems have awards covering Local Government employers and employees. Awards are documents which set out the minimum terms and conditions of employment for a particular industry or occupation.

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

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Girando

**Seconded:** Cr Isbister

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

**Carried**

---

**8b WALGA MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION**

---

**8b.1 Review of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007: Stage 3 Review**

*Prepared by: Rebecca Brown, Manager Environment and Waste*

*Attachment: Draft submission for Stage 3 of the review of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (BAM Act)*

**Executive Summary:**

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

**Background:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Policy Implications:**

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

*Western Australia's economy, environment and the community are facing increasing challenges posed by already established and new pests, weeds and diseases. Local Government has a significant role in biosecurity management, as land managers and regulators, and therefore has an interest in ensuring that Western Australia's biosecurity system, including control of declared pests, is effective and appropriately resourced. WALGA considers significant changes to the operation of the State's biosecurity system, including the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007, are required to ensure these risks can be managed now and into the future.*

*To be effective the Western Australian biosecurity system must:*

1. *Take a transparent approach to the notion of 'shared responsibility' by ensuring that:*
  - a. *The respective roles and responsibilities of Commonwealth, State and Local Government, industry, landholders, community groups and individuals are agreed and clearly articulated; and*
  - b. *There is improved pest management on State Government managed land and a formalised structure for State Government agencies with responsibilities for biosecurity management to work together and coordinate their activities.*
2. *Be underpinned by a strategic framework, developed in collaboration with stakeholders, that:*
  - a. *Establishes priorities for biosecurity threats in geographically defined regions, sets measurable targets and guides investment in biosecurity activities; and*
  - b. *Is regularly evaluated and reported on.*
3. *Have a greater focus on environmental biosecurity, through the increased recognition and management of pest species that have significant ecological impacts.*
4. *Be adequately, sustainably and equitably funded:*
  - a. *The appropriateness and effectiveness of the Declared Pest Rate (DPR) and Recognised Biosecurity Group (RBG) model as key mechanisms for the management of widespread and established declared pests should be reviewed and alternate mechanisms considered;*
  - b. *Increased and more equitable distribution of funding for every step in the biosecurity continuum and adequate resourcing for all stakeholders, including Local Government; and*
  - c. *The provision of funding for declared pest management in metropolitan areas.*

5. *Ensure that the criteria and process for listing of declared pests is evidence-based, timely and transparent.*
6. *Have an increased emphasis on compliance through education and enforcement activity, to ensure land managers are aware of their legislative responsibilities and are supported to implement biosecurity actions.*
7. *Facilitate the use of new technologies, strategic monitoring, and the establishment of data management systems to inform biosecurity investment decisions and support adaptive management.*
8. *Improve the community's understanding, awareness and action in relation to biosecurity to assist with threat surveillance and timely response to incursions.*

**Comment:**

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

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

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

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

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Isbister

**Seconded:** Cr Scott

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes WALGA's draft submission for Stage 3 of the review of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (BAM Act) and notes the deadlines for both commenting to WALGA on the draft review and responding directly to the Review Panel.

**Carried**

---

**9. REPORTS**

---

**9.1 Zone President's Report June 2023**

Zone President's Report  
Cr Karen Chappel

Refer to WALGA President's Report at Item 9.3.

**9.2 WALGA State Council Representative's Report June 2023**

Cr Moira Girando  
WALGA State Council Representative

On behalf of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA I have participated in the following Meetings and Forums:

- 19.06 2023 WALGA Finance and Services Committee Meeting
- 20.06.2023 WALGA Selection Committee Meeting
- 03.05.2023 WALGA State Council and Forum Meetings in Armidale.
- 31.05.2023 WALGA Finance and Services Committee Meeting
- 07.06.2023 WALGA State Council Info Forum



Brief details of pertinent issues are below or can be accessed via WALGA Minutes.

### **Wednesday, 3 May WALGA Strategic Forum and State Council Meeting**

The program included the usual Strategic Forum and State Council meeting in the morning, as well as a Zone Forum in the afternoon where each of the Local Governments from the SEMZ were invited to present to State Council on regional issues and strategic projects.

#### **Strategic Forum**

- Infrastructure WA Chief Executive Officer, Phil Helberg, presented to State Council on the State Government's recent response to the WA State Infrastructure Strategy. The presentation focused on those elements of the Strategy that link most closely with Local Government activity, including housing, transport, waste, regional development, digital connectivity and climate change.
- WALGA Economist, Dan Thomson, provided an economic update to State Council with a focus on inflation trends, construction costs and the labour market.
- WALGA Executive Manager Policy, Nicole Matthews, provided a briefing on other initiatives across the economics portfolio.

#### **State Council Meeting**

##### **Best Practice Governance Review – Feedback on Governance Model**

State Council considered the feedback received during the second round of consultation on the Best Practice Governance Review and resolved for the Secretariat to prepare two sets of constitutional changes for consideration by State Council at the July 2023 meeting:

- 1 to give effect to the revised Model 1,
- 2 to make necessary changes to the current constitution (while maintaining the current governance model).

These constitutional changes will need approval from 75% of State Council at the July meeting as well as 75% of Members at the AGM to be given effect.

##### **DLGSC Child Safe Awareness Policy Template**

State Council supported the Child Safe Awareness Policy Template being provided to Local Governments by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) to assist with the implementation of Recommendation 6.12 of the Royal Commission (Child Safety Officers in Local Government).

The DLGSC has committed to providing ongoing support and resourcing to Local Governments to assist with the implementation through the Child Safeguarding Implementation Unit.

##### **Advocacy Position Updates**

Two new advocacy positions regarding Abandoned Shopping Trolleys and Speed Management were endorsed.

##### **State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement 2023/24 to 2027/28**

The new State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement for 2023/24 to 2027/28 was endorsed by State Council. The new Agreement continues to provide 20% of vehicle license fee revenue collected by the State Government to be applied to Local Government roads and paths. The overall structure and intent of the Agreement remains largely unchanged from the previous Agreement.

*Other decisions as per the Full Minutes*

##### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Girando

**Seconded:** Cr Isbister

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

**Carried**

### **9.3 WALGA President's Report July 2023**

The WALGA President's Report for July 2023 is attached.

President Chappel spoke to her report.

#### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Clune

**Seconded:** Cr Cosgrove

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

**Carried**

### **9.4 Zone Status Report June 2023**

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

#### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Isbister

**Seconded:** Cr Cosgrove

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

**Carried**

### **9.5 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Update**

An update from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries is attached.

Mr Vinci spoke to the report.

#### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Scott

**Seconded:** Cr Isbister

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the Update from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

**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) 02/05/2023 WALGA

*Attachment: Email from Chantelle O'Brien (emailed to members 03/05/2023)*

An email with a link to a survey re DFES Roadworks (Grading and Bitumising) during Total Fire Bans.

### 10.1.2 (b) 09/05/2023 WALGA

*Attachments: Email from Chantelle O'Brien (emailed to members 09/05/2023)*

An email from Chantelle O'Brien with an invitation to member's staff to join the WALGA State Award Working Group.

### 10.1.2 (c) 19/05/2023 Regional Development Australia Midwest Gascoyne

*Attachment: RDA Newsletter (emailed to members 19/05/2023)*

### 10.1.2 (d) 02/06/2023 WALGA

*Attachment: State Council Flying Agenda – Consistent Local Planning Schemes Planning Reform (emailed to members 03/06/2023)*

A State Council Flying Agenda for comment by members.

### 10.1.2 (e) 07/06/2023 Peter Kenyon Bank of I.D.E.A.S

*Attachment: Email from Peter Kenyon*

An update from Peter Kenyon on the Community Builders Program in the North Midlands and Surrounds.

### 10.1.2 (f) 09/06/2023 Stephanie Godrich

*Attachment: Email from Stehanie Godrich*

Information from Stephanie Godrich PhD regarding the Food Community Project.

### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Girando

**Seconded:** Cr Isbister

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

**Carried**

## **10.2 Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 31 May 2023**

*Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer*

*Attachments: Bank Statements April/May 2023*

### **Recommendation:**

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

### **Comments:**

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

**NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA**

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

*For the period ending*

**31-May-23**

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Description</i>
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-22		10,059.48	
Deposits			15,000.00	2022-23 Membership Subscriptions x 10
			1.11	Interest received
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>			<b>15,001.11</b>	
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>			<b>25,060.59</b>	
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
	13-02-23		-55.00	Internet Tsf - Norris & Hyde IT - Inv 46560 - Domain name renewal
	07-03-23		-60.00	Internet Tsf - Norris & Hyde IT - Inv 46958 - Issue with recalling email
	07-03-23		-2,805.66	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 222304 - EO Services 30/11/2022-22/02/2023; Travel
	03-05-23		-33.00	Internet Tsf - Norris & Hyde IT - Inv 48293 - Add DKIM and DMARC to NCZ email for extra security
	03-05-23		-2,600.00	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 222305 - EO Services 23/02/2023 - 01/05/2023
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE</b>			<b>-15,456.01</b>	
<b>Closing Cash Balance</b>	<b>31-05-23</b>		<b>9,604.58</b>	

**NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA**

BANK RECONCILIATION SUMMARY

*For the period ending*

**31-May-23**

Statement Balance B/F	01-07-22	10,059.48
Deposits and Credits		15,001.11
Cheques and Payments		-15,456.01
<b>Total Cleared Transactions</b>	<b>31-05-23</b>	<b>9,604.58</b>
Add back o/s		0.00
<b>Reconciled Balance</b>		<b>9,604.58</b>
<b>Bank Statement</b>	<b>31-05-23</b>	<b>9,604.58</b>
<b>Difference I&amp;E to Bank Statement</b>		<b>0.00</b>

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Isbister

**Seconded:** Cr King

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

**Carried**

**10.3 Budget 2023-2024**

**Recommendation:**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA adopts the Budget 2023-2024, as presented, including membership fees of \$1,800 per member.

**Background:**

Item 13 of the Constitution calls for a Budget to be prepared annually and presented to the Zone for approval no later than 30 June prior to the financial year to which it relates.

**Comment:**

The 23-24 Budget sees Membership Subscriptions increase from \$1,500 per member to \$1,800 due in part to a large increase in catering costs at our February 2023 meeting, reducing our closing cash balance for the 22-23 year from that budgeted. Also, as we will be rotating our meetings out to our various members in the 23-24 financial year, I have increased the allowance for catering from \$600 per meeting in 22-23 to \$1000 in 23-24 as well as adding venue hire. This is to cover any unforeseen difficulties our members may have in hosting and catering for our meetings.

I have not allowed for the possibility of an NCZ Forum as this hasn't occurred for many years.

The Executive Officer updated members on a revised, lower February catering payment and handed out Budgetv2, with a suggested membership fee of \$1,650. It was decided by members to leave the membership fee at \$1,800 as initially recommended.

<b>NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA</b>			
<b>BUDGET</b>			
<i>For the period</i>			
<b>1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024</b>			
	<i>Date</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Cash Balance	31 May 2023		9,604.58
Payments	Reimburse Mingenew for catering 20 February 2023		-696.85
<b>Cash Balance B/F</b>	1 July 2022		<b>8,907.73</b>
<b>Deposits</b>			
Membership Fees	10 x \$1,800		18,000.00
Bank Interest Received			2.50
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>			<b>18,002.50</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>			<b>26,910.23</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Audit			-330.00
Executive Officer Services			-13,000.00
Executive Officer Travel	1200 km x .91c/km		-1,110.00
Office Supplies			-300.00
IT Support	Annual Fee Mail Box		-80.00
Catering for Meetings	5 x \$1000		-5,000.00
Venue hire	5 x \$250		-1,250.00
Allow for Online Meeting Subscription (say ZOOM or TEAMS) if required			-300.00
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>			<b>-21,370.00</b>
<b>Closing Cash Balance</b>	30 June 2024		<b>5,540.23</b>

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:****Moved:** Cr King**Seconded:** Cr Girando

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA adopts the Budget 2023-2024, as presented, including membership fees of \$1,800 per member.

**Carried 10/0**

---

**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 Call to Guests to Address the Meeting**

Mr Shane Love, Mr Mark Holdsworth, Mr Michael Bowley, Ms Janet Hartley-West and Mr Craig Vinci updated the meeting in their areas of expertise, as well as congratulating President Karen Chappel on her receipt of the Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2023 King's Birthday Honours List, *(for her significant service to Local Government and the community of Morawa)*.

**11.2 Regional Issue****Background:**

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

**11.2.1 Renewable Energy Developments – Community Engagement**

*Prepared By: Shire of Chapman Valley - Cr Kirrilee Warr, President & Jamie Criddle, CEO  
Attachments: Renewable Energy Developments - Community Engagement Issues Paper*

**Recommendation:**

That the Northern Country Zone request WALGA to formulate a State-wide Local Government Future Industries Engagement Framework to serve as a blueprint for LGA's to navigate the complexities of emerging industries to help drive economic growth, foster innovation, and improve the overall well-being of their communities.

**Background:**

In the rapidly evolving global landscape, local governments (LGA's) are facing the challenge of adapting to emerging industries and technologies. As Australia moves towards net zero emissions, LGAs are increasingly being approached by industry proponents, state and federal government representatives, companies and organisations.

To this end, what is the role of LGAs in the evolving landscape, and how does local government engage and "stay in the lane"? recognising demands on LGAs are increasing, and day-to-day operations and compliance requirements are modernising and a focal priority.

To navigate this dynamic environment successfully, it is crucial for LGA's to develop a robust engagement framework that fosters collaboration with future industries, levels of government, supporting industries/ organisations and community.

This paper aims to raise the necessity of a universal comprehensive framework that LGA's can utilise to engage with and support future industries effectively.

The Shire of Chapman Valley believes a universal framework is essential for Western Australia Local Governments to understand the opportunities, threats, challenges, risks, and leverage associated with future

industries, and respectfully request WALGA to undertake research and development of such policy and framework.

**Comment:**

The rapid advancing of net zero policies and transition to renewables and future industries, such as green hydrogen and ammonia requires careful planning and consideration. We don't know what we don't know! LGAs welcome a greater understanding of future industries and developing an engagement framework they can reference and adopt while dealing with multiple large-scale infrastructure and future industry projects all while attaining best possible outcomes for their community. Key points to help scope such a strategy.

- Economic and Social Impact
- Technological Advancements
- Workforce Transformation
- Infrastructure, Investment, and Development
- Policy and Regulatory Alignment
- Collaboration and Partnerships
- Environmental & Synergistic
- Funding and Investment Mechanisms
- Engagement Strategies

**OPPORTUNITIES AND PROPOSED ACTIONS:**

Development of best practices and case studies via

1. International Examples  
Highlight successful engagement frameworks implemented by international cities and regions to illustrate best practices and lessons learned in engaging with future industries.
2. National Examples  
Highlight successful engagement frameworks implemented by other Australian state, regional, or cities/towns to illustrate best practices and lessons learned in engaging with future industries.
3. Local Success Stories  
Several LGAs in WA have already had development in future industries approved and constructed, which provides a learning point. Showcase case studies of local governments that have effectively engaged with future industries, demonstrating the positive outcomes, tangible benefits achieved through collaboration and strategic planning along with any negative detractions and lessons learnt.

Development of an MOU to support partnerships across levels of government and stakeholders.

**DESIRED OUTCOMES:**

A Local Government Future Industries Engagement Framework serves as a blueprint for LGA's to navigate the complexities of emerging industries successfully. By adopting a proactive approach and implementing effective strategies, LGA's can harness the potential of future industries to drive economic growth, foster innovation, and improve the overall well-being of their communities. With a comprehensive framework in place, LGA's can become key facilitators of sustainable development in the era of rapid technological advancements and transformative industries.

Cr Scott spoke for the resolution, with the proviso that Local Government who were already working in this sphere be consulted in the development of the Framework. The meeting carried a resolution including that proviso.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Mr Criddle

**Seconded:** Cr King

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA request WALGA to formulate a State-wide Local Government Future Industries Engagement Framework, in consultation with Local Government, to serve as a blueprint for LGA's to navigate the complexities of emerging industries to help drive economic growth, foster innovation, and improve the overall well-being of their communities.

**Carried**

### **11.3 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

### **11.4 Other General Business**

Nil

---

## **12. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

---

**Recommendation:**

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held on Monday 28 August 2023, commencing at 10 am, at the Nabawa Community Centre, hosted by the Shire of Chapman Valley.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Scott

**Seconded:** Cr Clune

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held on Monday 28 August 2023, commencing at 10:00 am, at the Nabawa Community Centre, hosted by the Shire of Chapman Valley.

**Carried**

---

## **13. MEETING CLOSURE**

---

Meeting declared closed at 12:16pm.