



GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items

Unconfirmed Minutes

Friday 25 August 2023
Zoom Videoconference, commencing at 9.00am

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GOLDFIELDS VOLUNTARY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (GVROC)

Videoconference meeting of the GVROC Council to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items was held on Friday 25 August 2023 9.00am

AGENDA

1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The purpose of the meeting is to provide advice to the WALGA State Council Representative, Cr Laurene Bonza on the Agenda for the WALGA State Council Meetings to be held on 13 September 2023.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

3. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 Attendance

Cr Mal Cullen (Chair)	President, Shire of Coolgardie
Cr Tracey Rathbone	Councillor, Shire of Coolgardie
Mr James Trail	CEO, Shire of Coolgardie
Mr Andrew Brien	CEO, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Cr Laurene Bonza	President, Shire of Dundas
Mr Peter Fitchat	CEO, Shire of Dundas
Cr Sharon Warner	Councillor, Shire of Dundas
Cr Ian Mickel	President Shire of Esperance
Cr Ron Chambers	Councillor, Shire of Esperance
Mr Mathew Walker	Director Asset Management, Shire of Esperance
Cr Peter Grundy	President, Shire of Wiluna
Mr David Mosel	CEO, Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku
Mr Andrew Mann	Executive Officer, GVROC

3.2 Apologies

Mr Shane Burge	CEO, Shire of Esperance
Cr John Bowler	Mayor, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Cr Kim Eckert	Councillor, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Cr Patrick Hill	President, Shire of Laverton
Mr Phil Marshall	A/CEO, Shire of Laverton
Cr Robert Wedge	Councillor, Shire of Laverton
Cr Peter Craig	President, Shire of Leonora
Mr Ty Matson	CEO, Shire of Leonora
Cr Paul Warner	Councillor, Shire of Menzies
Cr Jill Dwyer	Councillor, Shire of Menzies
Mr Rob Stewart	A/CEO, Shire of Menzies
Cr Damian McLean	President, Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku
Cr Timothy Carmody	Councillor, Shire of Wiluna
Mr Gary Gaffney	CEO, Shire of Wiluna

3.3 **Guests**

Boyd Brown, Telstra Regional General Manager

Caroline Falkiner, Naveze Chief Navigator

3.4 **WALGA Representatives**

Cr Paul Kelly, WALGA Deputy President (Town of Claremont)

Willem Bouwer, Governance Specialist

Conor Macgill, Senior Policy Advisor, Waste

3.5 **DLGSC Representatives**

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

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 **Telstra**

Presentation was provided by Boyd Brown, Regional General Manager at Telstra regarding topics, such as 3G network closure, emergence of low earth orbit satellites and mobile network resilience within the region (**see Attached presentation file**).

4.2 **Naveze**

Presentation as provided by Caroline Falkiner, Chief Navigator at Naveze who has recently assisted the Shire of Dundas to develop an online digital wayfinding for visitors to their LGA area assisting tourism and visitor numbers. Naveze are keen to see if other LGAs in the region are interested in using this technology (see <https://naveze.com/> and for the Shire of Dundas example [Naveze | Indoor & Outdoor Destination Navigation Made Easy](#))

To view the presentation click on the following link: <https://youtu.be/YDRNdVqj6yw>

RECOMMENDATION:

That GVROC note the presentations as provided by Telstra and Naveze

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

5.1 Minutes of a Meeting of GVROC to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items held 23 June 2023

Minutes of the GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council held Friday 23 June 2023 are presented for adoption (**Attachment 1**).

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council held Friday 23 June 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie**
 Seconded: Cr Ian Mickel, Shire of Esperance

Carried

5.2 Action Sheet Report

An update on the actions based on the resolutions from the meeting held on 23 June 2023 meeting are presented for noting (**Attachment 2**).

RECOMMENDATION:

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

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**
 Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

6. DLGSC REPORT

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

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

Background:

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

Comment:

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

RECOMMENDATION

The GVROC notes the DLGSC report August 2023 as presented.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**
 Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

7. EMERGING ITEMS

From: Chair GVROC

Background:

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

A full copy of the State Council Agenda for the meeting on 13 September 2023 can be found at **Attachment 4**.

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

8. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Decision

8.1 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Advocacy Position

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA endorse the following position on Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA):

1. *The State Government should fund the implementation of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Plan endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC).*
2. *A reformed LEMA system should:*
 - a) *Clearly articulate the roles and responsibilities of Local Governments in emergency management;*
 - b) *Simplify the reporting processes and reduce the administrative burden of maintaining compliance;*
 - c) *Provide a suite of scalable tools and guidance materials that are accessible through an online knowledge hub;*
 - d) *Build the emergency management capacity and capability of Local Governments through the provision of targeted training, exercising support, human resources and sustainable funding;*
 - e) *Assist Local Governments to continue to deliver their core business activities and provide public information during an emergency event;*
 - f) *Improve the connectivity of Local Governments' various risk management and hazard planning processes through an integrated approach; and*
 - g) *Enable resource sharing and collaboration across the Local Government sector.*

IN BRIEF:

- WALGA recommends that State Council endorse a new emergency management advocacy position requesting the State Government to fund the implementation of the LEMA Improvement Plan endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC).
- A LEMA advocacy position will enable WALGA to advocate for reforms to LEMA processes, obligations and resourcing that will better meet the needs of the sector and build the resilience of local communities.
- The proposed position is informed by extensive consultation with the Local Government sector in 2022 through WALGA's LEMA Review Project.
- 100 Western Australian Local Governments contributed to the LEMA Review consultation, representing 72% of the sector.

ATTACHMENTS:

- [WALGA LEMA Review Consultation Project Summary and Recommendations Report](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

This new position is consistent with, and complements, the existing [Emergency Management Advocacy Positions 8.1 – 8.10](#)

BACKGROUND:

Under the *Emergency Management Act 2005*, all Local Governments are required to have Local Emergency Management Arrangement (LEMAs). LEMA refers to the collection of all the emergency management documentation, systems, processes, agreements and memorandums of understanding which affect the Local Government. LEMA are outlined in an overarching LEMA document and associated emergency management sub-plans which the Local Government is responsible for developing, maintaining and testing.

In 2019, the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) identified that there were an increasing number of Local Governments with LEMA overdue for review.

In response to this finding, WALGA submitted a paper to SEMC outlining the key challenges for Local Governments in fulfilling their LEMA obligations including:

- lack of clarity around the roles and responsibilities of Local Government in emergency management;
- lack of ongoing funding and human resources needed to meet Local Government emergency management requirements; and
- misalignment between Local Government emergency management requirements and the Integrated Planning and Reporting Frameworks for Local Government.

SEMC approved WALGA's recommendation to review current LEMA processes using a sector-led approach. In 2021, WALGA was allocated \$140,040 in *All West Australians Reducing Emergencies* (AWARE) grant program funding to lead a consultation with Local Government for the LEMA Review.

From April to December 2022, WALGA engaged with the Local Government sector to identify LEMA strengths, weaknesses, and improvement opportunities in a consultation process that included 10 in-depth interviews, 10 interactive workshops and an online survey. 100 Western Australian Local Governments contributed to the LEMA Review consultation, representing 72% of the sector.

[WALGA's consultation with Local Government](#) confirmed that LEMA system reforms are required to empower Local Governments to prepare for and recover from hazards that are likely to impact their communities and business operations now and into the future. An improved LEMA system should:

- Clearly articulate the roles and responsibilities of Local Governments in emergency management;
- Simplify the reporting processes and reduce the administrative burden of maintaining compliance;
- Provide a suite of scalable tools and guidance co-designed with the Local Government sector that are accessible through an online knowledge hub;
- Build the emergency management capacity and capability of Local Governments through the provision of targeted training, exercising support, human resources and sustainable funding;
- Assist Local Governments to continue to deliver their core business activities and provide public information during an emergency event;
- Improve the connectivity of Local Governments' various risk management and hazard planning processes through an integrated approach; and
- Enable resource sharing and collaboration across the Local Government sector.

In early 2023, DFES developed a draft LEMA Improvement Plan that was informed by WALGA's [LEMA Review consultation outcomes and recommendations](#). WALGA tested the LEMA Improvement Plan and confirmed that the Local Government sector is highly supportive of proposed implementation actions to:

- Streamline and customise LEMA templates;
- Develop a Local Government Emergency Management Policy;
- Review grant processes and resource/funding models;
- Scope and develop a LEMA Online Knowledge Hub;
- Embed a LEMA maturity assessment/evaluation into the process; and
- Conduct a training gap analysis, with outcomes to inform the development of LEMA training.

The final LEMA Improvement Plan was endorsed by SEMC on 2 August 2023, noting that funding for implementation is not yet confirmed and further work is required to identify full implementation and ongoing resource costs.

Local Governments are concerned about the absence of funding to implement the LEMA Improvement Plan actions and the reliance on securing grant funding to deliver these. If the State Government does not allocate or secure funding to implement the LEMA Improvement activities, the issues with LEMA currency and effectiveness will persist and Local Governments may disengage from State level EM project consultations and reform processes. Moreover, failing to reform the LEMA system will result in Western Australian communities being unprepared for the more frequent and extreme emergency events they face as a result of climate change.

COMMENT:

The LEMA Review provided a unique opportunity for Local Governments to actively inform State EM policy and procedure reform for emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery at the local level.

8.2 Advocacy Position on Road Works during Total Fire Ban

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA endorse the following principles in relation to the exemptions and conditions under which road works may be undertaken during a Total Fire Ban:

1. **Road Activity Tiers:** That there be a tiered risk approach for road work activities and associated controls, based on the proposed activities and fire danger forecast.
2. **Local Government operations:** That any controls specified in regulations to provide effective risk mitigation and response be able to be implemented within the works crew deployed for the task.
3. **Reduce Red Tape:** That the processes where repeated notification to DFES for the same task at the same location is required be streamlined.

IN BRIEF:

- The issue of restrictions on carrying out any grading or bitumen works during a Total Fire Ban has been raised by Local Governments.
- A Total Fire Ban is declared on days when fires are most likely to threaten lives and property.
- During a Total Fire Ban, road works can be undertaken only under certain conditions as set out in the [Bush Fires Regulations 1954](#).
- With the frequency of TFBs being declared in Western Australia increasing in recent years, road maintenance and improvement projects have been delayed, increasing the risk to road users.
- Based on consultation with Local Governments, three key principles are proposed to evaluate the effectiveness of the Regulations to manage risk of bushfire, and to enable low risk activities to proceed with appropriate controls.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

There is currently no [Advocacy Position](#) relating to road works undertaken during a Total Fire Ban.

BACKGROUND:

The issue of restrictions on carrying out any grading or bitumen works during a Total Fire Ban has been raised by Local Governments.

A Total Fire Ban (TFB) is declared on days when fires are most likely to threaten lives and property. This is because of predicted extreme fire weather or when there are already widespread fires and firefighting resources are stretched. Road works can be undertaken during TFB subject to complying with the conditions set out in the [Bush Fires Regulations 1954](#).

This issue has been raised by the Great Eastern Country Zone, Northern Country Zone and South West Country Zone.

COMMENT:

Some of the provisions in the regulations seem disproportionate in comparison to those imposed on harvesting that may be occurring in adjacent paddocks and are impractical for minor maintenance activities such as routine grading. Changes to the Australian Fire Danger Rating System, and Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) policies concerning the conditions under which a TFB is declared has resulted in a much higher frequency of TFBs in many parts of Western Australia. As a result, road maintenance and improvement projects have been delayed which increases the risks to road users.

Based on consultation with Local Governments, the following principles are proposed to be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the Regulations to manage the risk of bushfire and enable low risk activities to proceed with appropriate controls:

- Road Activity Tiers: That there be a tiered risk approach for road work activities and associated controls, based on the proposed activities and fire danger forecast.
- Local Government operations: That any controls specified in regulations to provide effective risk mitigation and response be able to be implemented within the works crew deployed for the task.
- Reduce Red Tape: That the processes where repeated notification to DFES for the same task at the same location is required be streamlined.

9. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Noting/Information

9.1 Flying Minute – Consistent Local Planning Schemes

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the submission on Consistent Local Planning Schemes to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and updated advocacy position (6.2 Planning Reform), as endorsed via Flying Minute.

IN BRIEF:

- The Consistent Local Planning Scheme reform project released by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) responds to the State Government’s Action Plan for Planning Reform (Action Plan) aimed at making local planning schemes more consistent and legible and improving associated guidance.
- Proposals involve changes to land use terms (and associated definitions); zones and reserves (and associated objectives) for all local planning schemes; and land use permissibility and development requirements for commercial and industrial type zones in the Metropolitan and Peel region schemes.
- WALGA’s submission generally supports greater consistency in local planning schemes as proposed but raises several concerns about the ongoing and incremental erosion of Local Government control over their own schemes that can be seen as imposing standardisation beyond what is reasonable.
- WALGA Advocacy Position 6.2 *Planning Reform* was revised to include specific reference to ensuring Local Government retains the ability to respond to local context and characteristics through Local Planning Frameworks.
- State Council endorsed the submission and amended Advocacy Position via Flying Minute on 8 June 2023.

ATTACHMENT:

- [DPLH's Stakeholder Consultation Report](#)
- [WALGA submission on Consistent Local Planning Schemes including DPLH Submission Form](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

WALGA’s submission is consistent with the following WALGA Advocacy Positions:

6.1 Planning Principles

All legislation and policy that deals with planning and development must:

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

6.7 Local Government Fees and Charges

Position statement: Local Government should achieve substantial cost recovery/fee for service in the delivery of its planning services; and any change to the fee structure should be carried out in consultation with the entire Local Government sector.

6.17 Special Residential Zones

Position Statement: Local Government supports the removal of future Special Residential Zones, however, supports the protection of existing Special Residential Zones

The following Advocacy Position was amended in response to matters raised in the submission:

6.2 Planning Reform

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

Amended Advocacy Position 6.2 Planning Reform:

The Local Government sector supports the underlying principles of planning reform and the continuing focus of streamlining the planning system while ensuring Local Government retains the ability to respond to local context and characteristics through Local Planning Frameworks.

BACKGROUND:

The [Action Plan for Planning Reform](#) was initiated as a result of the Independent Reviewer's Green Paper (2018). The Action Plan details reforms across three key themes: planning creates great places for people; planning is easier to understand and navigate; and planning systems are consistent and efficient.

More consistent local planning schemes were identified as an initiative in the Action Plan with the specific outcome of *a standardised approach to zones, land use, permissibility and development control to increase consistency, while retaining the ability for Local Governments and their communities to respond to local circumstances, such as heritage and character.*

The Consistent Local Planning Scheme reform project proposes various changes to land use terms (and definitions), zones and reserves (and associated objectives). A standardised zoning table, outlining land use permissibility, and an approach for development requirements within commercial and industrial type zones in the Perth and Peel regions is also proposed. Investigation and implementation of Industrial design codes (similar to R-Codes) and a deemed local planning scheme also forms part of the longer-term actions.

These changes are proposed to be introduced through future amendment to both Model Provisions and Deemed Provisions for Local Planning Schemes within the Local Planning Scheme Regulations 2015 and through guidance documents. Actions are proposed to be implemented in two stages with short to medium term actions (1-3 years) and longer-term actions (3+ years) identified. DPLH has advised it is consulting on principles only at this stage and further consultation will occur when guidance documents and regulatory amendments have been drafted.

COMMENT:

Submission

WALGA's Advocacy Position 6.2 Planning Reform supports the underlying principle of planning reform and the streamlining of the planning system. WALGA generally supports the Consistent Local Planning Schemes project, however greater consistency in local planning schemes should not be at the expense of local context and achieving good planning outcomes. Some of the identified actions will have the effect of incrementally eroding Local Government's control over their own schemes and can be seen as taking standardisation and centralisation of local planning frameworks too far to the detriment of Local Governments and their communities, and beyond what was envisaged in the *Action Plan for Planning Reform*.

Advocacy Position 6.2 Planning Reform

In response to concerns regarding the erosion of Local Government planning controls, Advocacy Position 6.2 Planning Reform was amended to make clear that while WALGA supports planning reform and the focus on streamlining the planning system, Local Government must retain the ability to respond to local context and characteristics through Local Planning Frameworks. This revised position will also assist in the Association in responding to future reform projects including the 2023 tranche of planning reform actions recently announced by the State Government.

The public comment period closed on Friday, 26 May 2023, with an extension granted to the Association to provide its comment by Friday, 9 June 2023. The People and Place Policy Team endorsed the draft submission and amended advocacy position on 31 May 2023. State Council endorsed the submission and amended advocacy position via Flying Minute on the 8 June 2023.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC note the WALGA submission on Consistent Local Planning Schemes to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and updated advocacy position (6.2 Planning Reform), as endorsed via Flying Minute.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: *Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie*

Seconded: *Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas*

Carried

9.2 Flying Minute – Submission on the Draft State Waste Infrastructure Plan

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the Submission on the Draft Western Australian State Waste Infrastructure Plan, as endorsed via Flying Minute.

IN BRIEF:

- The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation released the draft [Western Australia State Waste Infrastructure Plan](#) for comment by 23 June 2023.
- The draft Plan was developed to guide decision making for the planning and development of waste infrastructure in Western Australia and focuses on the built waste and recycling infrastructure needed to achieve 2030 State Waste Strategy targets.
- The draft Plan includes analysis of waste infrastructure in each region to identify unique needs, challenges and opportunities.
- Identified priorities include expansion of existing infrastructure, establishment of new processing and consolidation facilities and transfer of materials between regions to utilise existing capacity.
- A draft Submission was developed and distributed to Local Government for feedback.
- State Council endorsed the Submission via Flying Agenda on 23 June 2023.

ATTACHMENT:

[Flying Minute and Submission on the Draft Western Australian State Waste Infrastructure Plan](#)

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation released a draft [Western Australia State Waste Infrastructure Plan](#) (draft Plan) for comment by 23 June 2023. The draft Plan aligns with the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030* (State Waste Strategy) and supports the strategy target of long-term planning for waste infrastructure at a state level.

The draft Plan includes a summary of waste generation, flows and infrastructure needs for each region across the state, focusing on the built infrastructure required for municipal solid waste, commercial and industrial waste and construction and demolition waste. It identifies likely capacity constraints with current infrastructure and provides a framework for future decision making.

Once adopted, the plan is proposed to be reviewed every five years. The forecast modelling used in the draft Plan assumes all 2030 State Waste Strategy targets are met. If the targets are not achieved, impacts on the anticipated capacity will need to be addressed in future reviews of the plan.

WALGA held a workshop on 31 May 2023 to seek feedback from the sector on the draft Plan, which 47 Local Government representatives registered for. The Submission has been updated following feedback from this workshop and the Officers Advisory Group. The Submission was considered and endorsed by the Environment and Waste Policy Team and the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC). State Council considered and endorsed the Submission via out of session flying Agenda on 23 June 2023.

COMMENT:

The Submission examines the principles identified to guide planning, the specific considerations for regional areas and the limitations of some of the data used to formulate the draft Plan. WALGA considers the draft Plan provides a useful starting point for engagement and discussion with Local Government regarding waste infrastructure requirements. However, Local Government has expressed concern that aside from the Plan, there needs to be other supporting policies, programs and approaches to enable the development of the necessary infrastructure required to meet State Waste Strategy Targets.

The Submission highlights the following issues:

- That waste management needs to be integrated into the planning and development frameworks to ensure effective waste services can be provided;
- The need to manage waste as close to source of generation as possible;
- That detailed consultation needs to be undertaken with Local Governments (and other waste generating entities) in each region as to the proposed infrastructure activities and their long-term viability, prior to the plan being formally adopted. This will then guide the support and incentives for investment in local processing options;

- That the data on which the draft Plan is based needs to be current and that when considering waste facility capacity, the actual capacity, ability and willingness to accept the proposed waste streams is essential to ensure waste needs of regional communities are met; and
- Transfer stations and container deposit scheme depots need to be included in the plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. **Note the WALGA Submission on the Draft Western Australian State Waste Infrastructure Plan, as endorsed via Flying Minute.**

And additionally:

2. **Reaffirm its existing GVROC Submission submitted as part of the review of the draft State Waste Infrastructure Plan to WALGA and DWER, that better represents the waste issues for the region taking into consideration mining waste, tyres and hydrocarbons that are not included, acknowledged or recognised in the current WALGA submission and DWER draft Waste Infrastructure Plan.**

RESOLUTION:

Moved: *Mr Peter Fitchat, Shire of Dundas*

Seconded: *Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie*

Carried

9.3 Flying Minute – Submission on Directions Paper: Review of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2023

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the Submission on the Directions Paper: Review of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030, as endorsed via Flying Minute.

IN BRIEF:

- The State Government has released a *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 (Waste Strategy) Directions Paper*, as the first stage of consultation for the Strategy Review. Submissions were due 11 July 2023.
- Feedback on the Directions Paper will inform an updated Draft Waste Strategy, which will be released for consultation in late 2023 for a minimum of 12 weeks.
- A draft Submission was developed and distributed to Local Government for feedback.
- Focus areas for the updated Strategy identified in the Submission, include:
 - Increased focus on evidence-based waste avoidance programs for priority wastes;
 - Engagement with Commercial & Industrial sector;
 - Influencing effective national product stewardship schemes for electronic waste, packaging and tyres; and
 - Coordination and support for regional and remote areas.
- State Council considered and endorsed the Submission via Flying Agenda on 10 July 2023.

ATTACHMENT:

[Flying Minute and Submission on the Directions Paper: Review of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030](#)

BACKGROUND:

The Waste Authority is reviewing the 2019 State Waste Strategy. The review will seek feedback on how the Waste Strategy is performing, what is working and opportunities for improvement. The first step in the review process was the release of a [Directions Paper](#) on 30 May 2023, for a six week consultation period closing 11 July. A Draft Waste Strategy will be released in late 2023 for a minimum 12 week consultation.

The Directions Paper seeks feedback on opportunities to build on existing initiatives, such as Containers for Change and WA's Plan for Plastics, improve service delivery in regional and remote communities, align with state policy and further investigate emerging technologies as alternatives to landfill. The Directions Paper also requests feedback on the Waste Strategy's current objectives, targets and priority materials, application of the Waste Levy and emergency management of waste.

A draft Submission on the Directions Paper was developed and circulated to Local Government for feedback. A consultation session with Local Government was held on 14 June 2023 to gather feedback from the sector, with 21 Local Governments registered for the session. The Officers Advisory Group also met on 21 June 2023 to discuss the draft Submission and the key issues for inclusion in the final Submission. This Submission also draws on previous WALGA's submissions to the 2018 [Consultation Paper](#) and [Draft](#) of the current Waste Strategy.

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council and Environment Policy Team considered and endorsed the Submission on Wednesday 26 June 2023. State Council considered and endorsed the Submission via out of session flying Agenda on 10 July 2023.

COMMENT:

The Submission notes that the current Waste Strategy has propelled change in how waste is managed in Western Australia, with a number of important initiatives being implemented. This includes Containers for Change, the WA Plan for Plastic and large funding programs for infrastructure. Reviewing the Strategy provides an important opportunity to build on this momentum and further increase public engagement in achieving the Waste Strategy objectives and targets. The Submission responds to the questions asked in the Directions Paper and identifies the key focus areas for the future, include:

- Increasing the focus on waste avoidance, through evidence based programs for priority waste streams such as food waste, plastics and textiles;

- Undertaking engagement and developing opportunities for the Commercial & Industrial sector to reduce waste and increase recovery;
- Influencing the development of effective Product Stewardship Schemes at national level, for priority materials including electronic waste, mattresses, packaging and tyres; and
- Coordination and support and for regional and remote areas to assist in developing regional infrastructure solutions to increase resource recovery and undertaking initiatives to reduce waste.

This is the first stage of consultation, as part of the Waste Strategy Review, and offers the opportunity to raise key gaps in the current approach. These issues will be further explored with stakeholders to inform the development of the Draft Waste Strategy, scheduled for release in late 2023.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC note the WALGA Submission on the Directions Paper: Review of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030, as endorsed via Flying Minute.

RESOLUTION:

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

Carried

9.4 Flying Minute – Submission on Discussion Paper: Stage 3 Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 Review

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the Submission on the Discussion Paper: Stage 3 *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act Review*, as endorsed via Flying Minute.

IN BRIEF:

- The Independent Review Panel released a Discussion Paper on the third and final stage of consultation on the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act) for comment by due 30 June 2023. WALGA requested and received an extension until 12 July 2023.
- The Review Panel sought feedback on nine priority areas for reform, and 21 opportunities to 'clarify, strengthen and support a strengthened biosecurity system in WA'.
- WALGA's Stage 3 Submission builds on the recommendations in the WALGA BAM Act Review Discussion Paper and aligns with the Biosecurity Advocacy Position endorsed by State Council in December 2022.
- Feedback from Local Government identified the key reform areas as:
 - Clarifying the role of the BAM Act: ensure that the ecological impact of pests and diseases as well as the agricultural impacts are considered equally;
 - Planning and reporting: establishing a formal biosecurity body, including key stakeholders, to provide strategic leadership and consideration of local, regional and state-wide priorities; and
 - Community led pest management: establishing a broad-based Declared Pest Rate, applied across WA to all freehold, leasehold or rural land above a certain size, with Local Government as an eligible entity to receive funding from this Rate.
- The key concerns raised by the sector were in relation to:
 - Emergency Powers: Ensuring Local Government is consulted on the development of these powers, particularly where the emergency response will impact on Local Governments' operations and responsibilities;
 - Community led pest management: Although there may be additional funding available, this may not guarantee funding to deliver all programs expected by the community; and
 - Compliance with WA's biosecurity laws: Increased budget for State Government led compliance operations was considered critical by the sector, rather than relying on Local Laws.
- State Council endorsed the Submission via Flying Agenda on 12 July 2023.

ATTACHMENT:

- [Flying Minute and Submission on the Discussion Paper: Stage 3 Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act Review](#)

BACKGROUND:

The [Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007](#) (BAM Act) is the regulatory framework for Western Australia's plant and animal pest and disease biosecurity, the use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals, and ensuring safe and quality agricultural products. An [Independent Panel](#) was appointed to undertake the first 10-year [statutory review](#) of the Act's operation and effectiveness, which commenced in March 2022. The Panel has undertaken a three-stage engagement process.

Stage 3 of the Review invited comment on a [Discussion Paper](#) setting out nine priority reform areas and 21 opportunities within these to 'clarify, strengthen and support a strengthened biosecurity system in WA'. WALGA prepared a [draft Submission](#) that outlined the potential benefits or issues of each reform area, as well as where the Review Panel's target outcomes and reform opportunities align with WALGA's 2022 Biosecurity Advocacy Position. WALGA hosted a webinar with the Review Panel Chair on the Stage 3 reform opportunities on Wednesday, 14 June, the recording is available [here](#). The webinar was attended by 34 representatives from 22 Local Governments. WALGA also circulated the draft Submission to all Zones and sought feedback directly from Local Governments.

The Environment Policy Team endorsed the Submission on 5 July. WALGA requested, and was granted, an extension to the closing date to ensure State Council could consider the Submission. State Council considered and endorsed the Submission via out of session flying Agenda on 12 July 2023.

COMMENT:

Feedback from Local Government identified strong support for the following reform areas and opportunities:

- Clarifying the role of the BAM Act: ensure that the ecological impact of pests and diseases as well as the agricultural impacts are considered equally.
- Planning and reporting: establishing a formal biosecurity body, including key stakeholders, to provide strategic leadership and consideration of local, regional and state-wide priorities.
- Community led pest management: establishing a broad-based Declared Pest Rate, applied across WA to all freehold, leasehold or rural land above a certain size, with Local Government as an eligible entity to receive funding from this Rate.

Key concerns raised with the following reform areas and opportunities:

- Emergency Powers: Ensuring Local Government is consulted on the development of these powers, particularly where the emergency response will impact on Local Governments' operations and responsibilities.
- Community led pest management: Although there may be additional funding available, this may not guarantee funding to deliver all programs expected by the community.
- Compliance with WA's biosecurity laws: Increased budget for State Government led compliance operations was considered critical by the sector, rather than relying on Local Laws.

The Submission makes clear that significant additional consultation with key sectors in the biosecurity system, including Local Government, will be vital to ensure any adopted reforms are carefully designed to ensure successful implementation.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC note the WALGA's Submission on the Discussion Paper: Stage 3 *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act Review*, as endorsed via Flying Minute.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

9.5 Flying Minute – Independent Strategic Review of the Infrastructure Investment Program Submission

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the Independent Strategic Review of the Infrastructure Investment Program submission, as endorsed via Flying Minute.

IN BRIEF:

- The Commonwealth is conducting a 90-day independent strategic review of the \$120 billion infrastructure investment program.
- The scope includes key Local Government infrastructure funding programs such as Roads to Recovery.
- The submission supports continuation and expansion of the Commonwealth Government investment in Local Government infrastructure through both non-competitive and specific purpose funding programs.
- The submission was endorsed by State Council on 14 July by way of Flying Minute.

ATTACHMENT:

- [Flying Minute and submission to the Independent Strategic Review of the Infrastructure Investment Program](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The submission is based on the principles of Local Government decision-making autonomy in relation to local investment priorities and provision of adequate funding to Local Governments to meet the reasonable infrastructure needs of the community.

BACKGROUND:

On 1 May 2023, the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Hon Catherine King, announced a review of the Government's 10-year, \$120 billion infrastructure pipeline.

The 90-day review will be undertaken by former federal and state bureaucrats Mike Mrdak, Reece Waldock and Clare Gardiner-Barnes.

The review scope covers key Local Government infrastructure funding programs including the Roads to Recovery, Black Spot, Bridges Renewal, Roads of Strategic Importance (Secondary Freight Networks) and Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Programs.

The Commonwealth Infrastructure Investment Program is budgeted to provide about \$170 million to Western Australian Local Governments in 2023/24.

During meetings with Hon Catherine King on 24 May, the WALGA President and Chief Executive secured agreement for Local Governments to provide a submission to the review team.

The State and Territory Local Government Associations worked together with ALGA to develop a survey instrument that could be used across all jurisdictions to inform submissions to the review. Forty-eight Western Australian Local Governments provided survey responses.

The draft submission was considered and endorsed by the Infrastructure Policy team on 5 July. The submission was endorsed by State Council on 14 July by way of Flying Minute.

COMMENT:

All responses, from metropolitan, rural and remote Local Governments recognized the important role and contribution of the Commonwealth in providing funding contributions for Local Government infrastructure. The Commonwealth funded 28.6% of Local Government road expenditure in 2021/22. Outside of the

metropolitan region, Commonwealth funding contributed nearly 35% of the investment in road maintenance, renewal and upgrades.

The submission highlights:

- improved equity by the providing non-competitive grants such as the Roads to Recovery Program,
- the benefits of providing funding certainty over longer periods of time enabling Local Governments to build industry capacity, align delivery with 10-year road asset management plans, and
- the benefits of providing flexibility to manage project delivery timing within the economic cycle.

The submission notes that the internal project delivery capability within the Local Government sector has enabled projects to be progressed but recognizes that civil construction market capacity has extended delivery times for projects. Large increases in project costs are identified by survey respondents supporting a call for increased funding overall, and for caps on the size of certain projects to be reviewed and updated.

Local Government delivered projects and programs represent about 4.5% of the Infrastructure Investment Program over the 2023/24 to 2026/27 period, so are not contributing significantly to market pressures.

The recommendations are that:

1. The Commonwealth should continue to fund infrastructure investment programs that support projects identified and prioritised at regional and local levels such as Roads to Recovery and the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program. Non-competitive grant programs that do not require co-funding ensure that areas with lower financial capacity and resources are not further disadvantaged, improving equity.
2. The Commonwealth should seek to broaden the scope of eligible projects to enable Local Governments to align these with wider Government policy objectives including net zero, regional development and resilience.
3. Programs should continue to provide multi-year funding certainty to enable Local Governments to develop construction industry capacity and support long-term maintenance programs and strategic planning efforts.
4. The Commonwealth should continue to fund programs focused on delivering nationally prioritised outcomes including road safety (Black Spot program), international competitiveness (Roads of Regional Significance, Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity) and equity (Bridges Renewal Program).
5. The Commonwealth should increase the funding to infrastructure investment programs to reflect significant increases in infrastructure construction costs over the past three years, the need to upgrade roads to contribute to safety objectives and increase resilience in the face of increasing frequency and intensity of flooding.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC note the Independent Strategic Review of the Infrastructure Investment Program submission, as endorsed via Flying Minute.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

9.6 Flying Minute – Submission on Discussion Paper – Wired for Change: regulation for small electrical products and solar photovoltaic system waste

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the Submission on the Discussion Paper: Wired for Change: regulation for small electrical products and solar photovoltaic system waste, as endorsed via Flying Minute.

IN BRIEF:

- The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water released a Discussion Paper outlining the proposed new regulated product stewardship scheme for two categories of electrical waste: small electrical and electronic equipment and solar photovoltaic (PV) systems for comment by 23 July 2023.
- The current national Product Stewardship Scheme for electronic waste does not meet the needs of Local Government as it does not cover all electronic waste, or the costs associated with recycling. Local Government has also expressed concern regarding the equity of the geographic coverage of the Scheme.
- The proposed new scheme meets most Local Government requirements, with:
 - a guarantee that all costs associated with the recycling of this e-waste is covered for sites which are part of the Scheme;
 - most electronic waste currently being disposed of at Local Government sites being included, as well as an opportunity for additional products to be added over time; and
 - an equitable access requirement.
- The design of the proposed scheme has been informed by consultation with WALGA, other Local Government Associations, and key stakeholders. WALGA has emphasised the need for these elements of the Scheme, as well as targets that do not limit collection amounts and align with infrastructure and markets for products collected.
- State Council considered and endorsed the Submission via Flying Agenda on 21 July.

ATTACHMENT:

- [**Flying Minute and Submission on the Discussion Paper: Wired for Change: regulation for small electrical products and solar photovoltaic system waste**](#)

BACKGROUND:

In 2011, the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme (NCRS) was launched and initially covered all costs associated with recycling products covered under the Scheme. At this time only about 10 per cent of electronic waste collected by Local Government was outside the NCRS. Over time, Local Government has identified significant problems with the NCRS, as it has ceased to cover all costs associated with recycling these materials and the scope of electronic waste being disposed of has broadened, with approximately 30 per cent of what is now collected now being outside the NCRS.

In 2018, the now Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) commenced a review of the NCRS. The Department has consulted with Local Government and other stakeholders in the lead up to the most recent phase in this review and is now seeking feedback on a new regulatory approach to product stewardship for two categories of electrical waste, small electrical and electronic equipment and solar photovoltaic (PV) systems outlined in [*Wired for change: Regulation for small electrical products and solar photovoltaic system waste*](#) (the Discussion Paper).

Also important in the context of this Submission is the e-waste landfill ban which the Western Australian Government has [committed](#) to implement by 2024. WALGA's [submission](#) to the State Government, highlights Local Governments' significant concern regarding the misalignment in the timeframe for the landfill ban and an effective national product stewardship scheme for the materials covered by the Ban being in place.

MWAC considered the Discussion Paper at its June 2023 meeting and a webinar, with 60 Local Governments registered, was held on Thursday, 6 July. Local Governments were also encouraged to make their own submissions on the Discussion Paper. WALGA also shared the Submission with other State and Territory Local Government Associations. State Council endorsed the Submission via out of session Flying Agenda on 21 July.

COMMENT:

Local Governments key concerns with the NTCRS include that the Scheme does not cover all types of electronic waste, or costs associated with the recycling products collected, and that there is not equitable geographic access to recycling options under the Scheme.

WALGA's Submission notes that the new scheme, as outlined in the Discussion Paper, potentially addresses most of the issues that Local Government has raised with the NTCRS and includes the key components of a successful product stewardship scheme, notably:

- A guarantee that all costs associated with the recycling of e-waste and PV's is covered. This includes transport cost, which is particularly important for regional and remote Local Governments;
- A Scheme which covers the majority of electronic waste currently being disposed of at Local Government sites and includes a clear mechanism for additional products to be added over time;
- Enabling equitable access to the Scheme across Australia; and
- Targets that do not limit collection amounts and align with infrastructure and markets for products collected.

Other Recommendations in the Submission:

- A mechanism for annual feedback from stakeholders, including Local Government, to determine if types of electronic waste outside the Scheme are increasing, and should therefore be considered for inclusion;
- Ensuring the Department is resourced to take and act on the feedback regarding expansion of the Scheme; and
- That e-cigarettes are included in an effective product stewardship program, such as the return unwanted medicines program, to ensure safe disposal and resource recovery.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC note the WALGA Submission on the Discussion Paper: Wired for Change: regulation for small electrical products and solar photovoltaic system waste, as endorsed via Flying Minute.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: *Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas*

Seconded: *Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie*

Carried

9.7 Flying Minute – Submission to the Review of the Main Roads Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Guidelines

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the submission to Main Roads WA on the draft Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Guidelines, and the following principles regarding the design and implementation of pedestrian crossings, as endorsed via Flying Minute:

1. **Planning at the local level**
A detailed understanding of modal networks at the local level and/or local transport plans should inform where and which pedestrian crossing types are implemented.
2. **Pedestrian Crossings are essential**
High-speed, high-volume roads are the major barrier to active transport that must be resolved.
3. **Pedestrian Priority**
Pedestrian travel should be given equal weight to vehicular travel. High-quality, cost-effective, pedestrian-priority crossings should be implemented wherever possible. Pedestrian Crossings on roads with heavy vehicles should also be given higher priority toward the implementation of a safe, pedestrian- priority crossings in the Guidelines, based on the risk to the pedestrian.
4. **Cost**
Cost-effective pedestrian-priority crossings should be considered first, rather than high-cost facilities. The Guidelines should provide guidance on the cost of installing pedestrian crossing facilities and general information on which party may bear the costs.
5. **Proactive Approach**
Forecast pedestrian demand based on network planning, rather than existing pedestrian counts should be used to plan appropriate crossings.
6. **Speed**
Vehicle travel speed requirements for implementing pedestrian crossings must not be a barrier to selecting and installing pedestrian-priority crossings, but should be a consideration in selecting cost-effective designs.
7. **Intersections**
Intersection designs, including roundabouts, should accommodate pedestrian crossing priority.

IN BRIEF:

- Main Roads provided the draft Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Guidelines to WALGA for review and comment.
- Seven overarching principles are proposed to inform revisions to the draft Guidelines document:
 - That planning at the Local Government level be considered in determining where and which crossing types are implemented;
 - That pedestrians must be accommodated with facilities, regardless of vehicle speeds and vehicle volume considerations;
 - That high-quality, pedestrian-priority crossings be considered first rather than last;
 - That lower cost high-quality, pedestrian-priority crossings be considered first, rather than higher cost crossings
 - That the guidelines incorporate a proactive approach, rather than react to pedestrian demand, which is often not present;
 - That the operating speed to implement high-quality, pedestrian-priority crossings be increased, so this is not a barrier to implementing pedestrian crossings;
 - That intersection designs, particularly roundabouts, be included that support pedestrian-priority crossings.
- These principles guide numerous proposed revisions to the text of the draft Guidelines.
- Revisions to the Pedestrian Crossing Facility Guidelines are important to Local Government, as Local Governments maintain most of the path network, have a nuanced understanding of transport in their jurisdiction, and often prepare active transport planning documents that include priority pedestrian networks.
- The submission was considered and endorsed by State Council by way of Flying Minute on 11 August.

ATTACHMENT:

[Flying Minute: Submission to the Review of the Main Roads Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Guidelines](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

This submission creates a new [policy position](#), which outlines seven general principles that enable Local Governments to provide pedestrian crossings to support a safe, comfortable, and connected pedestrian network.

BACKGROUND:

WALGA has been invited by Main Roads WA to review and provide comment on a draft version of the Pedestrian Crossings Facilities Guidelines (the Guidelines) from the Local Government perspective. The current Guidelines were published in 2020. This is part of our standard review process for Main Roads WA policies that affect Local Governments. Main Roads WA have invited individual Local Governments to make submissions, so this was not duplicated by WALGA.

The Infrastructure Policy Team considered this issue on 28 July 2023 and unanimously supported a recommendation to consider this issue in a State Council Flying Minute. The submission was endorsed via Flying Minute by State Council on 11 August and was then provided to Main Roads.

COMMENT:

The Guidelines provide advice on appropriate types, locations, and treatments for pedestrian crossing facilities and outline the warrants for implementing pedestrian crossing facilities. The stated intent of the Guidelines is to support the provision of facilities for safer, accessible, and convenient pedestrian movements.

WALGA identified elements of the Guidelines that limit the capacity for Local Governments to manage the safe, comfortable, and connected movement of pedestrians, which are outlined in the bullet points below.

- **Planning Documents/Sound Planning:** Local Governments are often responsible for active mobility infrastructure, including the provision of footpaths. The implementation of the pedestrian network of infrastructure elements is often guided by an Integrated Transport Plan, Walk and Ride Plan, or other strategic planning document. No mention is made of Local Government's plans in planning for pedestrians in the Guidelines.
- **Vehicle Volumes/Speed:** The Guidelines, as written, make implementing high-quality pedestrian priority crossing facilities very difficult on roads with higher speeds/higher traffic volumes. However, it is precisely on these roads that such crossing facilities are fundamental to the creation of a safe, comfortable, and connected pedestrian network.
- **Pedestrian Priority:** A cornerstone of delivering a safe, comfortable, and connected pedestrian network is providing crossings with pedestrian priority, i.e. where motorists give way to pedestrians. The Guidelines make it very difficult to implement pedestrian-priority crossings, e.g. zebra/wombat crossings or pedestrian signals, and clearly state that vehicle delay is more important than pedestrian delay.
- **Cost:** Particularly on higher speed or higher volume roads, the Guidelines recommend treatments that are often prohibitively expensive for Local Governments to implement (pedestrian bridges or pedestrian signals). If the Local Government cannot afford the treatment, then pedestrians are not accommodated to cross at all.
- **Retrospective Approach:** Pedestrian demand is a key determinant of the type of crossing that would be proposed or considered. However, without a crossing in place, it is unlikely that pedestrian demand can be demonstrated.
- **Speed Reduction Stipulation:** In order to implement an at-grade pedestrian priority crossing, vehicle speeds must be reduced to 30 km/h or below at that location. This is exceedingly difficult to achieve without substantial cost implications for Local Governments and is particularly difficult to achieve on higher speed roads, making this well-intentioned stipulation a barrier to implementing pedestrian crossings. In addition, Local Governments do not have authority to set speed limits.
- **Crossings at Intersections:** Roundabouts are particularly unfriendly to pedestrians in that vehicles are not required to stop. This guide reinforces vehicular priority at roundabouts. Designs do exist to create roundabouts that are safer and more comfortable for people walking (pedestrian priority), but are not proposed in the Guidelines.

To realise the goals identified in Local Government planning documents (e.g., Integrated Transport Plans, Walk and Ride Plans) of developing a safe, comfortable, and connected pedestrian network, seven principles to inform revisions to the Guidelines are presented below.

These principles align with the following State Strategies/Initiatives:

- Driving Change – Road Safety Strategy for Western Australia – “Community feedback shows widespread support for **traffic calming measures in busy areas** that will prevent collisions with pedestrians and cyclists and **make local communities more people-friendly**.”
- Foundations for a Stronger Tomorrow: State Infrastructure Strategy – Under Tomorrow 2042 - “Fully integrated planning and delivery results in more efficient and flexible connections between transport modes and stimulates and supports greater infill housing development, with **a modal shift towards greater public transport use and active transport**.”
- WA Active Mobility Strategy – “The WA Active Mobility Strategy (AMS) will be an overarching strategic document that outlines **a coordinated approach to increase active mobility in Western Australia**.”
- Your Move: More Ways to Get There – “Your Move is a Department of Transport program that helps **people find alternative, active ways** to get to and from work, school and around their local community.”

1. Planning at the Local Government Level

Local Governments have a nuanced understanding of their modal networks. The State Government does not share this micro-level understanding of the local context. These guidelines should acknowledge this expertise and allow sound planning at the Local Government level to inform where and which pedestrian crossing types are implemented.

2. Pedestrian Crossings are Essential

High-speed, high-volume roads are the barrier most likely to be encountered by people completing trips on foot across WA. The guidelines should acknowledge that pedestrian crossings are essential regardless of vehicle speed and volume and that not providing a safe crossing is an unacceptable outcome.

3. Pedestrian Priority

The Guidelines identify non-priority crossings as the crossings to consider first. However, this type of crossing provides the lowest level of safety and comfort for pedestrians. The guidelines should recommend starting with high-quality, cost-effective, pedestrian-priority crossings in the first instance and recommend only implementing non-priority crossings as a last resort. Pedestrian travel should be given equal weight to vehicular travel. Pedestrian Crossings on roads with heavy vehicles should also be given higher priority toward the implementation of a safe, pedestrian- priority crossings in the Guidelines, based on the risk to the pedestrian.

4. Cost

Local Governments are responsible in most instances for the installation and maintenance of active mobility facilities within their jurisdictions. The Guidelines recommend installing pedestrian signals or grade-separated pedestrian crossings under certain circumstances. However, these are often very expensive to construct and maintain. The guidelines should recommend the implementation of lower-cost pedestrian-priority crossings first, rather than high-cost facilities. The Guidelines should also provide guidance on the cost of installing pedestrian crossing facilities and general information on which party may bear the costs.

5. Proactive Approach

As vulnerable road users, pedestrians are unlikely to cross in large numbers in areas that are unsafe. The Guidelines should adopt a more proactive approach and acknowledge the value of network planning, instead of responding to pedestrian demand, which will not be present in areas with no crossing facilities. Additionally, a suite of appropriate design options should be provided to fit every situation.

6. Speed

The Guidelines mandate an operating speed reduction to 30 km/h at pedestrian crossings. Most roads in WA are speed zoned at 50 km/h or higher. While this reduction in operating speed is laudable from a safety perspective, this requirement effectively acts as a barrier to implementing pedestrian crossings, due to the difficulty in achieving this reduction without very costly infrastructure improvements and the

prevailing high speeds on most roads in WA. Local Governments also do not have the authority to set speed limits.

7. Intersections

Certain infrastructure types, while safer for vehicles, can be very difficult to navigate for pedestrians, particularly roundabouts. The Guidelines should provide designs that accommodate pedestrians with priority at roundabouts to support the creation of a safe, comfortable, and connected pedestrian network.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC note the update on the WALGA submission to Main Roads WA on the draft Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Guidelines, and the following principles regarding the design and implementation of pedestrian crossings, as endorsed via Flying Minute and as presented.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: *Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas***
 Seconded: *Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie*

Carried

9.8 Concurrent Commonwealth Disaster Reviews

WALGA Recommendation:

That State Council note that the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is undertaking three separate but complimentary reviews to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Commonwealth disaster funding and governance.

IN BRIEF:

- The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is undertaking three separate but complimentary reviews to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Commonwealth disaster funding and governance:
 - [Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding](#)
 - [Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Review](#)
 - [Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements](#)
- These reviews will seek to identify areas of duplication, gaps, and opportunities to streamline processes and align with best practice and the recommendations of the *Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements* and National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework.
- WALGA is preparing a submission to the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding, due 18 August 2023.
- The submission will be provided to State Council for endorsement via Flying Agenda.
- The submission presents an opportunity to raise the sectors concerns about the Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Arrangements (DRFA) and other Commonwealth Disaster Funding grant processes.
- WALGA is seeking further information to ascertain if there is an opportunity to contribute to the Governance and DRFA reviews.

BACKGROUND:

In response to the multiple natural disasters that have occurred over the last three years and the increased severity, intensity, and complexity of natural disasters, the Commonwealth Government has identified that there is a need to improve overall recovery and response capability and encourage greater investment in disaster risk reduction.

The [Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding](#) (the Independent Review) will examine all Commonwealth disaster funding to ensure it supports a system that is effective and fit-for-purpose given the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters. It will also consider how government investment in disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery can better support a national system that makes our communities safer and builds resilience to natural disasters. This review is being undertaken by Andrew Colvin AO.

The [Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Review](#) (the DRFA Review) addresses recommendations made by the *Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements* and the former Council of Australian Governments (COAG). It will seek to ensure equitable access to funding support so that disaster impacted communities are treated consistently and fairly. It also aims to streamline processes so that governments are able to respond quickly and appropriately to severe disasters; and encourage jurisdictions to build back better and generate greater investment in resilience during the recovery effort.

The [Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements](#) (the Governance Review) will consider how all levels of government work together effectively in relation to emergency management. This will include how the government serves the current and future state of national natural disaster preparedness, adaption, response, recovery, resilience and long-term policy requirements in Australia. The Governance Review is being led by climate change and disaster management expert Dr Robert Glasser.

The DRFA Review and the Governance Review are separate but complementary to the Independent Review. Outcomes from the DRFA Review will feed into the overarching objective of the Independent Review. Each review will ultimately seek to improve outcomes across the prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery aspects for disaster-affected communities.

COMMENT:

The Independent Review provides an opportunity for WALGA to raise sector concerns about the DRFA and other Commonwealth Disaster Funding grants.

Opportunities for Local Governments to contribute to the Commonwealth Disaster Funding Review have been communicated by WALGA and by the review team from Deloitte, including through a public submission and a Local Government Survey sent to CEOs, Mayors and Presidents.

WALGA will continue to participate in consultations and update the sector about opportunities to provide input into these reviews.

GVROC COMMENTS:

The GVROC would like WALGA to investigate whether LGAs could receive funding through or similar to the LCSl on an annual basis that could be utilised for ongoing planning to implement disaster mitigation works, which would assist and save money rather than focus on disaster recovery after an event.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC note the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is undertaking three separate but complimentary reviews to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Commonwealth disaster funding and governance.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: *Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas*

Seconded: *Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie*

Carried

9.9 Commonwealth Disaster Ready Fund – Round Two

WALGA Recommendation:

That zones note that Expressions of Interest for Round 2 of the Disaster Ready Fund are now open, and that the Department of Fire and Emergency Services is providing support to Local Governments to assist with the development of high-quality applications.

IN BRIEF:

- The [Disaster Ready Fund](#) (DRF) is a \$200 million Commonwealth Government fund that provides grants to government and non-government organisations to help them reduce disaster risk.
- Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for DRF Round 2 are open now and applications for Round 2 will open in early 2024.
- Benefits to Local Governments in applying for the DRF include building partnerships with other organisations and receiving financial assistance for projects that reduce community vulnerability to disasters.
- The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) is actively engaging with organisations in preparation for Round 2 of the DRF, to identify projects that are most likely to be successful, as well as providing support and advice to develop strong applications.
- DFES is encouraging Local Governments interested in applying for DRF Round 2 to start planning now.
- DFES is holding a [grants webinar](#) on **Monday 4 September**, 10am to 12pm, which will provide more detail on how to submit a successful grant application, and the support available.

BACKGROUND:

The first round of the DRF opened on 10 January and closed 6 March 2023. 19 out of 23 successful Western Australian projects involved Local Governments. Although many WA Local Governments that applied to Round One of the DRF were successful, WA were only allocated just over \$8 million of the total \$200 million available. Successful projects from the first round are listed [here](#).

EOIs for DRF Round 2 are open now and applications for Round 2 will open in early 2024.

COMMENT:

Examples of the types of projects that were successful across Australia, and may be of interest to Local Governments considering applying for a DRF grant in Round Two include:

- Evacuation centre upgrades
- Coastal erosion mitigation
- Flood resilience
- Community disaster risk reduction and resilience projects
- Green canopy initiatives
- Community engagement, education, and preparedness
- Improving natural environments to build resilience.

The extra support being provided by DFES through the early EOI process may help increase DRF funding to Local Governments in Round Two. A key factor in funding success is a well substantiated application, which can be resource intensive to develop.

DFES will hold a grants webinar 10am - 12pm, **Monday 4 September**, with information on how to submit a successful grant application, and what support is available. Register your interest [here](#).

Further information is available on the [SEMC website](#) or semc.grants@dfes.wa.gov.au.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC note that Expressions of Interest for Round 2 of the Disaster Ready Fund are now open, and that the Department of Fire and Emergency Services is providing support to Local Governments to assist with the development of high-quality applications.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas
Seconded: Mr David Mosel, Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku

Carried

9.10 2023 Local Government Elections – Zone Office Bearer Elections

WALGA Recommendation:

That the Goldfields Esperance Zone note the process for election of Zone Representative and Deputy Representative to the WALGA State Council.

BACKGROUND:

With the bi annual Local Government elections being held on Saturday, 21 October 2023, Zones will also be required to hold an election process for State Council representatives.

A chronological overview of the process is detailed below:

- Local Government elections occur on Saturday, 21 October 2023.
- Member Councils to elect/appoint their Zone Delegates and to advise the Zone Executive Officer, as soon as possible but preferably by 3 November 2023.
- For the purpose of electing their representatives and deputy representatives to the WALGA State Council, the Zones are required to hold these elections at their November 2023 meeting.
- Zones to advise WALGA, in writing, of their elected State Council representative and deputy representative immediately following the 2023 November Zone meeting.
- A State Councillor Induction Session will be held for all State Council representatives and deputy representatives before the first meeting in December.
- The new State Council will take office at the Ordinary Meeting of State Council on **6 December 2023**.

In relation to the nominations and election process to be followed by each Zone in electing a representative and deputy representative to the WALGA State Council, the below process has been instituted by State Council:

1. *Zone Executive Officer to write to all Member Councils no later than 1 month prior to the Zone meeting at which the election is to be held calling for nominations from Delegates to the Zone for the positions of representative and deputy representative to State Council. The correspondence is to state that all nominations are to be made in writing to the Zone Executive Officer, and only Elected Members who are a nominated Zone Delegates are eligible to nominate. The time period for the receipt of nominations is preferably to be **one week prior** to the Zone meeting at which the election will be held. However, nominations will be accepted from the floor at the Zone meeting.*
2. *Zone Executive Officer to receive written nominations from Zone Delegates for the positions of representative and deputy representative to State Council and then provide written confirmation to Member Councils of the nominations received.*
3. *Elections are to be held at the next Zone meeting as the first item of business. Nominations will be permitted from the floor at the Zone meeting. Where there is more than one nomination for each vacant position, an election will be conducted using a secret ballot, with the Zone Executive Officer to represent WALGA as the returning officer for the election. Prior to the ballot, nominees for each position are to be extended the opportunity to provide a 2 minute election bid to Delegates.*
4. *All voting Delegates to the Zone are entitled to cast one (1) vote in the ballot process. The candidate with the greater or greatest number of votes is elected to the office.*
5. **Tied vote** – *in the event of a tied vote, election will be determined by drawing names from a box. The Secretariat will put the names of the candidates concerned in a box and the first name drawn is the Elected Member.*

6. *Zone Executive Officer to advise WALGA in writing immediately following the Zone meeting of the outcome of their elections.*

If you have any questions or require further information in relation to the above mentioned process, please contact Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services on 9213 2051 or email tbrown@walga.asn.au.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC as the representative body for the Goldfields Esperance WALGA Zone note the process for election of Zone Representative and Deputy Representative to the WALGA State Council.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: *Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas*

Seconded: *Cr Ron Chambers, Shire of Esperance*

Carried

10. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Policy Team Reports

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

Policy Teams

10.1 Environment and Waste Policy Team Report

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

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

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the Environment and Waste Policy Team at its meeting held on 5 July 2023.

1. Matters for State Council Decision

The Policy Team considered and endorsed the Submission on Stage 3 of the Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act Review (see [Agenda item 9.4](#)).

2. Matters Referred by Zones

The Avon-Midland Country Zone requested that WALGA continue to advocate for specific changes to the native vegetation clearing permit system for clearing within existing road reserves. The Policy Team acknowledged the comprehensive information provided by the Zone, the concerns raised and request from the Zone, and confirmed that WALGA will continue to advocate, and develop solutions, regarding these issues.

The South West Country Zone requested that WALGA advocate to the Minister for Environment; Climate Action for the reinstatement of the Regional Climate Alliance Program. The Policy Team noted the Zone resolution and that WALGA will continue to advocate for the continuation and expansion of the Regional Climate Alliance Program.

The WALGA President wrote to the Minister for Environment and Climate Action, Hon Reece Whitby on 28 June 2023 to urge him to consider the results of the evaluation and funding for the Program as a priority.

3. Updates provided

ARENA EV charger funding: WALGA presented the EOI to the ARENA Panel in early June and was successful in moving onto the next stage of the process, the development of a full project proposal. WALGA are currently working to address the issues identified by the ARENA Panel and anticipate the Submission of the full project proposal in July/August.

Integrated Weed Management Promotion: Over the next month, WALGA will be launching a series of videos showcasing Local Governments approaches to integrated weed management.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC notes the matters considered by the Environment and Waste Policy Team.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**
Seconded: Cr Ron Chambers, Shire of Esperance

Carried

GVROC NOTE: Could WALGA put more pressure on DPIRD for better responsiveness and funding towards biosecurity events as it is currently very hit and miss.

10.2 Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team Report

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

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

The Governance and Organisational Services (GOS) Policy Team have not had a meeting since the last State Council meeting on 5 July.

A meeting of the GOS Policy Team is scheduled for Thursday, 31 August.

A Report providing an update on matters considered at that meeting will be included in the next State Council Agenda.

Policy Team Chair, Cr Russ Fishwick, will provide a verbal report at the State Council meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

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

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**
 Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

10.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report

The Infrastructure Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

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

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the Infrastructure Policy Team at its meetings held on 5 July, 28 July and joint meeting with the People and Place Policy Team on 9 August.

1. Matters for State Council Decision

Road Works during Total Fire Bans

Road works can be undertaken during Total Fire Bans subject to complying with the conditions set out in the Bush Fires Regulations 1954. Based on consultation with Local Governments, the following principles are proposed to be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the regulations to manage the risk of bushfire and enable low risk activities to proceed with appropriate controls (see [Agenda item 7.2](#)):

1. Road Activity Tiers
2. Local Government operations
3. Reduce Red Tape

2. Matters for State Council Noting

The Infrastructure Policy Team met and considered the following matters that have been endorsed by State Council by way of Flying Agenda:

1. Submission to the Strategic Review of Commonwealth Infrastructure Investment Program

2. Proposed changes to the Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Guidelines, used by Main Roads when assessing the needs of pedestrians.

The Joint Infrastructure and People and Place Policy Teams meeting on 9 August considered a draft submission to the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding and following discussion resolved that the submission be considered by State Council by Flying Agenda.

The Policy Team also considered matters in relation to line marking on roads and resolved to seek the development of a formal advocacy position for consideration at a future State Council meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC notes the matters considered by the Infrastructure Policy Team

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**
Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

10.4 People and Place Policy Team Report

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

- Community
- Emergency Management
- Planning and Building

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the People and Place Policy Team at its meetings held on 5 July and 9 August 2023.

1. Matters for State Council Decision

Nil.

2. Matters for State Council Noting

At the meeting on 5 July, the People and Place Policy Team received briefings on: the State Council Agenda for the 5 July meeting; and the release of draft Operational Policy Planning for Public Open Space by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage for comment until 25 August; and the commencement of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021*.

At the meeting on 9 August, the People and Place Policy Team: jointly with the Infrastructure Policy Team, endorsed a draft submission on the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding to be provided to State Council by Flying Agenda; endorsed the submission of Draft Operational Policy 2.3 Planning for Public Open Space to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage; and endorsed the following advocacy position on Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement (see [Agenda item 7.1](#)):

1. *The State Government should fund the implementation of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Plan endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC).*
2. *A reformed LEMA system should:*
 - a) *Clearly articulate the roles and responsibilities of Local Governments in emergency management;*
 - b) *Simplify the reporting processes and reduce the administrative burden of maintaining compliance;*
 - c) *Provide a suite of scalable tools and guidance materials that are accessible through an online knowledge hub;*
 - d) *Build the emergency management capacity and capability of Local Governments through the provision of targeted training, exercising support, human resources and sustainable funding;*
 - e) *Assist Local Governments to continue to deliver their core business activities and provide public information during an emergency event;*

- f) *Improve the connectivity of Local Governments' various risk management and hazard planning processes through an integrated approach; and*
- g) *Enable resource sharing and collaboration across the Local Government sector.*

RECOMMENDATION:

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

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**
 Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

10.5 Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council:

- 1. rescind Advocacy Position 7.5 Waste Management Data Collection and accompanying Policy Statement; and**
- 2. note the resolutions of the 28 June 2023 Municipal Waste Advisory Council Meeting.**

IN BRIEF:

- This item summaries the proceedings of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) meeting held on Wednesday, 28 June.
- Copies of MWAC Agendas and Minutes are available from WALGA staff on request.

1. Matters for Decision

Data and Information Policy Statement

ALGA Advocacy Position [7.5 Waste Management Data Collection](#) and [Waste Management Data and Information Management Policy Statement](#) were endorsed in 2010 and were used to advocate regarding Local Government reporting requirements as the State Government developed their voluntary data reporting requirements and for funding for Local Government to undertake data collection. While the principles and approach to data collection in the advocacy position and policy statement are still valid, data provision by Local Government is now standard, and required under regulation. It was therefore agreed that MWAC recommend this Policy Statement and associated Advocacy Position and be rescinded.

[WALGA Advocacy Position 7.5 Waste Management Data Collection](#)

Local Government asserts that the State and Federal Governments have a role in compiling and publishing waste management data centrally, as well as providing support to Local Governments in collecting data.

[Background](#)

Local Government acknowledges the importance of using consistent data as a tool to make evidence-based decisions. However, there are constraints for Local Governments in collecting waste data in terms of capacity and data availability, which has meant that accurate waste management data is not always readily available. WALGA developed the Data and Information Management Policy Statement to assist the sector in identifying when data should be collected and various uses. The Policy Statement was also used by WALGA in contributing to the development of the Department of Environment and Conservation's waste data collection program, which aims to assist Local Governments in meeting their reporting responsibilities.

State Council Resolution June 2010 – 61.3/2010

[Supporting Documents](#)

[Waste Management Data and Information Management Policy Statement](#)

Background Paper: Policy Statement on Waste Management Data and Information Management (2010)

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MOTION

That the Municipal Waste Advisory Council rescind the *Waste Management Data and Information Management Policy Statement*.

Moved: Cr Thompson
Seconded: Mayor Vernon

CARRIED

Submission on the State Waste Strategy Directions Paper

The State Government has released a *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030* (Waste Strategy) [Directions Paper](#), as the first stage of consultation on the Strategy Review. Feedback on the Directions Paper will inform an updated Draft Waste Strategy, which will be released for consultation in late 2023 for a minimum of 12 weeks. A draft Submission on the Directions Paper was developed and distributed to Local Government for feedback.

The Submission identifies the focus areas for the updated Waste Strategy including:

- Focus on waste avoidance, through evidence-based programs for priority waste streams such as food waste, plastics and textiles.
- Engagement and opportunities for the Commercial & Industrial sector to reduce waste and increase material and resource recovery.
- Influencing the development of effective Product Stewardship Schemes at national level, for priority materials including electronic waste, packaging and tyres.
- Coordination and focus for regional and remote areas to assist with developing regional solutions to increase resource recovery and reduce waste.

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MOTION

That the Municipal Waste Advisory Council, and Environment Policy Team, endorse the Submission on the *Review of Western Australia's Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 Directions Paper*.

Moved: Cr Price
Seconded: Cr Wheatland

CARRIED

Soft Plastics Advocacy

WALGA, with the other Local Government Associations, is advocating nationally against the proposed inclusion of soft plastics in kerbside recycling collections (by the Australian Food and Grocery Council). The approach being proposed has the potential to undermine effective community education about what should be placed in the recycling bin and shifts costs onto Local Government and away from manufacturers. MWAC agreed to writing to the Federal and State Environment Ministers, as part of this advocacy, and to support other correspondence sent by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and other Local Government Associations.

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MOTION

That the Municipal Waste Advisory Council endorse sending correspondence to the State and Federal Environment Ministers:

- Calling for effective product stewardship for soft plastics.
- Identifying Local Government opposition to collection of soft plastics through the kerbside system.

Moved: Mayor Vernon
Seconded: Cr Wheatland

CARRIED

2. Matters for Discussion

MWAC discussed the following matters:

- **Waste Levy Rate Increase and Schedule:** The Council discussed the differences between the capacity of larger metropolitan Local Governments and small regional Local Governments to collect the Levy. Illegal dumping in peri-urban areas is a significant issue and it was considered that an extension of the Levy was only likely to exacerbate the issue. The focus for advocacy was discussed, including seeking full hypothecation for the Levy, expenditure on positive actions for example FOGO infrastructure funding and the implications of State Government relying on an environmental levy which will decrease over time. MWAC requested the WALGA write to the Environment Minister regarding the Levy.
- **Product Stewardship for Electrical and Electronic Waste:** MWAC identified the key elements to include in the Submission to the Federal Government [Discussion Paper](#) *Wired for Change: Regulation for small electrical products and solar photovoltaic systems waste*. This included State

Government plans to progress a ban on e-waste to landfill by 2024. Local Governments were also encouraged to comment on the Discussion Paper.

- Household Hazardous Waste Program: A new 5-year funding agreement has been finalised for the HHW Program, starting from 1 July 2023. WALGA has extend the contract with the current service provider, Cleanaway, for 6 months to ensure sufficient time for the tender process for the new Program.
- Waste Education Resourcing: A short survey on resourcing for waste education was distributed to 34 metropolitan Local Governments and Regional Councils. Complete and partial responses were received from 11 Local Governments and 3 Regional Councils. Results included:
 - 10 Local Governments indicated that waste education was provided internally. 7 of these respondents noted one full-time equivalent (FTE) officer allocated to waste education. The remaining three respondents noted at least two FTE officers.
 - One Local Government specified that waste education was provided by their Regional Council. One Local Government specified that in addition to waste education being provided internally, their waste contractor also delivers waste education in schools.
 - Two Regional Councils each indicated at least four FTE officers allocated to waste education.
 - In the 2022-23 financial year, Local Government/Regional Council waste education budgets ranged from \$15,000 to \$300,000.
- 5th Review of the Container Deposit Scheme Minimum Network Standards: MWAC received notification that the 5th review of the Minimum Network Standards is currently underway, with feedback due 21 July 2023. The review proposes to increase the number of Refund Points for towns of greater than 500 people. The proposal will result in an additional 11 Refund Points state-wide. This is aligned with WALGA's previous advocacy and submissions to increase the number of Refund Points. Rather than make a formal submission it was agreed that the MWAC Chair would send a letter supporting the proposal to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

RECOMMENDATION:

That GVROC:

1. note that State Council will rescind Advocacy Position 7.5 Waste Management Data Collection and accompanying Policy Statement; and
2. notes the resolutions of the 28 June 2023 Municipal Waste Advisory Council meeting.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: *Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas*
Seconded: *Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie*

Carried

11. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Organisational Key Activity Reports

11.1 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio

11.2 Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio

11.3 Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio

11.4 Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio

GVROC COMMENT:

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

RESOLUTION: *Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas*
 Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

12. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Policy Forums and Other Reports

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

12.1 President's Report

WALGA Recommendation

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

12.2 CEO's Report

WALGA Recommendation

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

12.3 Ex Officio Reports

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

RECOMMENDATION:

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

RESOLUTION: *Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie*
 Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Carried

13. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – State Council Status Report

13.1 Complete Status Report on State Council Resolutions - To the September 2023 State Council Meeting

GVROC COMMENT:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

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

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

14. LATE ITEMS as notified, introduced by decision of the Meeting
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Motion to accept the Late Item:

MOTION RESOLUTION: **Moved:** *Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas*
 Seconded: *Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie*

14.1 GVROC Regional Climate Alliance Coordinator

REPORTING OFFICER: Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer

BACKGROUND:

The RCA Coordinator, Niki Curtis, has accepted a 10-month Contract at WALGA as the Senior Policy Advisor, Environment, working part-time as 0.8 FTE, starting Monday August 14, 2023, while the existing occupant goes on maternity leave. This position in WALGA has been responsible for overseeing the RCA program and funding that the GVROC received and is key in advocating for the RCA program to be extended across WA.

On the basis of taking up this contract, Niki Curtis has officially resigned from the Shire of Esperance as of Friday 11 August 2023.

In discussions with Niki Curtis and WALGA both are keen for Niki to also continue as the GVROC RCA Coordinator on a part-time basis under a direct contract with GVROC for 10 hours per week, similar to the current contractual agreement that the GVROC Executive Officer, Andrew Mann has in place.

There are mutual benefits to WALGA and the GVROC in having Niki undertake both these roles on a part-time basis and it will complement Niki’s work achieved to date in the GVROC RCA.

Niki Curtis also advises that as the GVROC RCA is transitioning into project grant submission and delivery stage that working part-time in the role is manageable and will not impact the current progress made by the GVROC.

OFFICERS COMMENTS:

It is recommended that the GVROC agree to this change in employment for the GVROC RCA Coordinator and request that the GVROC Executive Officer enter into a contract with Niki Curtis for the 10 hours per week.

In discussions with Niki Curtis the agreed hourly rate will be \$120 exc GST.

The GVROC should also note that this will also financially benefit the GVROC with funding it has already committed to pay for the GVROC RCA Coordinator in the 2023/24 budget for a full salary of \$140,000 now not all required. There is also a portion of the existing contract with the Shire of Esperance that the GVROC funded through to January 2024 that now will not be expended and returned to the GVROC budget.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

It is estimated that this could bring \$80,000 to \$90,000 in funds back to the GVROC budget that could then be utilised towards funding other projects.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. notes that the GVROC RCA Coordinator, Niki Curtis, has resigned from the Shire of Esperance and has started working part-time with WALGA as of Monday, August 14, 2023.
2. agree to continue to employ Niki Curtis as the GVROC RCA Coordinator on a part-time basis 10 hours per week at the agreed hourly rate of \$120 to continue to manage the GVROC RCA.

3. request that the GVROC Chair and the GVROC Executive Officer enter into a contract with Niki Curtis under the agreed rate and number hours per week and report back to the GVROC at its next meeting on 24 November 2023.

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

Carried

15. FUTURE MEETINGS

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

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

- 18 September 2023 (GVROC Dinner aligned with WALGA AGM in Perth)
- 24 November 2023 in Menzies (hosted by the Shire of Menzies)

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

- 6 December 2023 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **17 November 2023**

16. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 10:35am.