

**South Metropolitan**

**Zone**

**Minutes**

**26 June 2023**

# South Metropolitan Zone

Hosted by the Town of East Fremantle  
135 Canning Highway, East Fremantle – 9339 9339  
Monday 26 June 2023 commenced at 5:30 pm

## Acknowledgement of Country

We, the Zone members acknowledge the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community. We embrace the vast Aboriginal cultural diversity throughout Western Australia, including Boorloo (Perth), on the land of the Whadjuk Noongar People, where this meeting is being held and we acknowledge and pay respect to Elders past and present.

## Minutes

### MEMBERS

### 3 Voting Delegates from each Member Council

City of Cockburn	Mayor Logan Howlett JP – <b>Deputy Chair</b> Cr Phoebe Corke Cr Chontelle Stone Mr Anton Lees, Acting Chief Executive Officer - non-voting delegate
Town of East Fremantle	Cr Kerry Donovan Mr Andrew Malone, Acting Chief Executive Officer – non-voting delegate
City of Fremantle	Cr Doug Thompsom Cr Geoff Graham Cr Frank Mofflin Mr Glen Dougall, Chief Executive Officer – non-voting delegate
City of Kwinana	Cr Barry Winmar Cr Sherilyn Wood Mr Doug Elkins, A/Chief Executive Officer – non-voting delegate
City of Melville	Cr Duncan Macphail Cr Karen Wheatland Cr Glynis Barber Cr Katy Mair (Observer)
City of Rockingham	Mayor Deb Hamblin Cr Caroline Hume Mr Michael Parker, Chief Executive Officer - non-voting delegate
WALGA Secretariat	Mr Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services Ms Susie Moir, Policy Manager, Resilient Communities

Guest Speaker Nil

## **APOLOGIES**

City of Cockburn Cr Tom Widenbar

Town of East Fremantle Cr Cliff Collinson  
Cr Tony Natale

City of Kwinana Mayor Carol Adams OAM  
Mr Wayne Jack, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

City of Rockingham Cr Hayley Edwards

City of Melville Mr Marten Tieleman, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Zone Delegates were requested to provide sufficient written notice, wherever possible, on amendments to recommendations within the State Council or Zone agenda to the Zone Chair and Secretariat prior to the Zone meeting.

Agenda Papers were emailed 7 days prior to the meeting date.

Confirmation of Attendance An attendance sheet was circulated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Draft Minutes of previous meeting
2. Zone Status Report
3. President's Report
4. Standing Orders
5. DLGSC May Report Update
6. WALGA Draft Submission – BM Act Review Stage 3

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## **1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

**Nil.**

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## 2. DEPUTATIONS

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### 2.2 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Update Report.

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Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries report was **attached** with the agenda.

**Noted**

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## 3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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### RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Karen Wheatland  
Seconded: Cr Kerry Donovan

That the Minutes of the meeting of the South Metropolitan Zone held on 24 April 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

**CARRIED**

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## 4. BUSINESS ARISING

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### 4.1 Status Report

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A Status Report outlining the actions taken on the Zone's resolutions was enclosed as an attachment.

**Noted**

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## 5. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA – MATTERS FOR DECISION

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*(Zone delegates to consider the Matters for Decision contained in the WA Local Government Association State Council Agenda and put forward resolutions to Zone Representatives on State Council)*

The full State Council Agenda can be found via link: [State Council Agenda 5 July 2023](#)

The Zone is able to provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation that is then presented to the State Council for consideration.

## **Matters for Decision**

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

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

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

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

## **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Cr Kerry Donovan**  
**Seconded: Cr Chontelle Stone**

**Amend recommendation 2(a)(i) by the addition of the words 'support a minimum target of 30% by 2040 for Perth and Peel regions'.**

**The Amendment was Put and CARRIED**

## **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Cr Phoebe Corke**  
**Seconded: Cr Karen Wheatland**

**Amend paragraph 2b(iv) to include the words 'investigate incentivising the provision and retention of trees on private property'.**

Amend paragraph 2b(v) to include the words 'Investigate increasing the width of road reserves to support the planting of large trees'.

The Amendment was Put and CARRIED

## RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Phoebe Corke  
Seconded: Cr Karen Wheatland

Include an additional paragraph 5 to provide 'Advocate for the Infrastructure WA Recommendation 18: Develop an overarching urban forest program'.

The Amendment was Put and CARRIED

## THE MOTION AS AMENDED NOW READS

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

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

- 1) *Identify a lead agency with responsibility for setting the strategic direction and oversight of urban forest initiatives.*
- 2) *In consultation with Local Government:*
  - a. *Develop an Urban Forest Strategy, based on the overarching principles of a resilient, connected, expanded and equitable urban forest including:*
    - i. *support a minimum tree canopy target of 30% by 2040 for the Perth and Peel regions,*
    - ii. *robust and contemporary data to inform decision making,*
    - iii. *funding mechanisms to support growth in urban canopy.*
  - b. *Develop contemporary legislative and policy mechanisms to enable the protection and growth of urban forest, including:*
    - i. *an effective and efficient regulatory mechanism that allows Local Government to consider the removal or alteration of a significant tree as a form of development.*
    - ii. *prioritisation of trees and vegetation as a key structural element in the design of new neighbourhoods to facilitate climate resilient and liveable communities.*
    - iii. *consideration of public realm design to maximise opportunities for tree retention and new planting consistent with any tree canopy targets.*
    - iv. *'investigate incentivising the provision and retention of trees on private property'.*
    - v. *Investigate increasing the width of road reserves to support the planting of large trees'.*
- 3) *Work with Local Government and other stakeholders to increase community awareness and promote behaviour change in relation to urban forest growth and retention to support State and Local Government targets and action.*
- 4) *Provide recurrent funding for a comprehensive and accessible Urban Greening Grant program to support Local Government investment in public realm planting, focusing on high urban heat areas and enhancing biodiversity outcomes.*

**5) Advocate for the Infrastructure WA Recommendation 18: Develop an overarching urban forest program**

**7.2 State Planning Policy 3.7 Bushfire**

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

**7.3 Reforming WA Disability Legislation Submission**

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

**7.4 Landfill Bans Advocacy Position**

That WALGA endorse the following Landfill Ban Advocacy Position:

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

**7.5 Audit Experience Survey Results Summary and Advocacy Position**

That:

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

**7.6 Amendments to WALGA's Constitution**

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

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

## RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Chontelle Stone  
Seconded: Cr Karen Wheatland

### That the South Metropolitan Zone

1. Supports Matters for Decision State Council Agenda items 7.2 to 7.6 and item 7.1 as amended, Policy Team and Committee Reports as listed in the July 2023 State Council Agenda; and
2. Notes all Matters for Noting and Organisational Reports as listed in the July 2023 State Council Agenda.

CARRIED

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## 6. BUSINESS

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

*By Rebecca Brown, Manager Environment and Waste*

#### Executive Summary

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

#### Background

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

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

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

- principles to underpin WA's biosecurity, including biosecurity in all contexts and shared responsibility.



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

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

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

## Policy Implications

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

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

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

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

8. *Improve the community's understanding, awareness and action in relation to biosecurity to assist with threat surveillance and timely response to incursions.*

## Comment

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

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

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

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

## Noted

**WALGA Secretariat noted that the Zone's main priority is proper management of pest birds such as corellas and rainbow lorikeets at the State Government level via a tenure blind approach.**

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## 7. OTHER BUSINESS

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## 8. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

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### 8.1 WALGA President's Report

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The State Council representative presented the President's Report.

## Noted

## RESOLUTION

Moved:                   Cr Karen Wheatland  
Seconded:              Cr Chontelle Stone

**Congratulations to President Karen Chappel JP from the Zone on receiving the Kings Birthday Honour of an AM for her hard work and dedication to the Local Government sector.**

**CARRIED**

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## 8.2 State Councillor's report to the Zone

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WALGA State Councillor, Mayor Howlett presented the following on the previous State Council strategic form and meeting.

The South East Metropolitan Zone (SEMZ) hosted the May State Council meeting at the City of Armadale on Wednesday, 3 May. The program included the usual Strategic Forum and State Council meeting in the morning, as well as a Zone Forum in the afternoon where each of the Local Governments from the SEMZ were invited to present to State Council on regional issues and strategic projects.

### Strategic Forum

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

### State Council Meeting

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

State Council considered the feedback received during the second round of consultation on the Best Practice Governance Review and resolved for the Secretariat to prepare two sets of constitutional changes for consideration by State Council at the July 2023 meeting: one to give effect to the revised Model 1, and one to make necessary changes to the current constitution (while maintaining the current governance model). These constitutional changes will need approval from 75% of State Council at the July meeting as well as 75% of Members at the AGM to be given effect.

#### DLGSC Child Safe Awareness Policy Template

State Council supported the Child Safe Awareness Policy Template being provided to Local Governments by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) to assist with the implementation of Recommendation 6.12 of the Royal Commission (Child Safety Officers in Local Government). The DLGSC has committed to providing ongoing support and resourcing to Local Governments to assist with the implementation through the Child Safeguarding Implementation Unit.

#### Advocacy Position Updates

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

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

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

### Noted

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**9. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

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The next meeting of the South Metropolitan Zone will be held Monday 28 August 2023 at the City of Fremantle commencing at 5.30 pm.

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**10. CLOSURE**

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There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at **6.13pm**.