

East Metropolitan Zone Minutes

18 April 2024

**Hosted by the City of Belmont
Function Room, 215 Wright Street,
Cloverdale**

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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. April 2024 Update – Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries
3. Zone Status Report
4. President's Report
5. Standing Orders

1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1 OPENING

The Chair, Cr Giorgia Johnson opened the meeting at 6.30pm.

1.2 ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS

2 Voting Delegates from each Member Council

Town of Bassendean	Cr Kathryn Hamilton Mr Cameron Woods, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
City of Bayswater	Cr Giorgia Johnson - Chair
City of Belmont	Cr George Sekulla Cr Bernard Ryan Mr John Christie, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
City of Kalamunda	Cr Geoff Stallard
Shire of Mundaring	President Cr Paige McNeil Cr John Daw Mr Jason Whiteaker, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
City of Swan	Cr Evia Aringo Mr Stephen Cain, Chief Executive Officer
WALGA Secretariat	Mr Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure Ms Lucy Sheehy, CoastWA Local Government Facilitator Ms Emma Heys, Governance Specialist
Guest Speakers	Nil

1.3 APOLOGIES

Town of Bassendean	Cr Emily Wilding
City of Bayswater	Cr Josh Eveson Mr Jeremy Edwards, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
City of Kalamunda	Cr Brooke O'Donnell Cr Dylan O'Connor Mr Nathan Ritchie, Acting Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
City of Swan	Cr Haeden Miles

2 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.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

4 DEPUTATIONS

4.1 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SPORT AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE REPORT

The April 2024 report from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) was provided as an attachment within the agenda.

Noted

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Paige McNeil

Seconded: Cr George Sekulla

That the Minutes of the meeting of the East Metropolitan Zone held on 15 February 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED (9/0)

6 BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 STATUS REPORT

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

Noted

7 STATE COUNCIL AGENDA – MATTERS FOR DECISION AND NOTING

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 - 1 May 2024](#)

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

7.1 MATTERS FOR DECISION

7.1 Waste Levy Advocacy Position

By Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Environment

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

- 1. Replace the existing WALGA *Waste Levy Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 7.4 Waste Management Funding*.**

Local Government considers that:

- 1. Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy funds should be hypothecated to strategic waste management activities in line with the State Waste Strategy and strongly opposes the application of the Levy to non-waste management related activities, such as funding State Government core activities; and**
 - 2. The Levy should not be applied to licensed landfills outside the metropolitan area.**
- 2. Endorse a new Waste Levy Advocacy Position as follows:**

The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy (the Levy) was established in WA to fund programs relating to the management, reduction, reuse, recycling, monitoring or measurement of waste and administering the fund. The current Levy is applied to waste generated, or landfilled, in the Perth metropolitan area.

Currently, only 25% of the collected funds are retained for strategic waste management activities, 75% are allocated to the ongoing operations of the Department responsible for administration of the Levy.

Local Government considers that:

- 1. The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy funds must be fully hypothecated to strategic waste management activities in line with the State Waste Strategy and not be used for non-waste management related activities, such as funding State Government core activities.**
- 2. Strategic waste management activities funded by the State Government should:**
 - a. Provide adequate funding and support for Regional Councils, non-metropolitan and metropolitan Local Governments;**
 - b. Reflect the targets and priorities within the Waste Strategy;**
 - c. Fully fund and acknowledge the life cycle costs of infrastructure and services; and**
 - d. Facilitate the development, implementation and ongoing operation of Product Stewardship Schemes.**
- 3. The Levy should not be applied to waste generated in the non-metropolitan area as it is not feasible, or appropriate, to implement the Levy in areas with a limited rate base, access to markets for recycled materials, economic growth and resources to manage such a change.**
- 4. The Levy should not be applied to waste received at premises undertaking licensed activities whose primary purpose is resource recovery.**
- 5. The Levy must be supported by a clear, evidence-based rationale to demonstrate**

the suitability of how charges are set, how and where funds are allocated, and the extent to which it is delivering on its objectives.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Waste Levy and Strategic Waste Funding Policy Statement was first endorsed in 2008 and was amended in 2018.
- The Statement outlines the Local Government position on levies charged on the weight or volume of waste received at licensed premises and the application of those funds to waste management activities.
- In 2023, the WA Government published the findings of a Review of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Levy. The consultation summary report and supporting consultant report can be accessed on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) [website](#).
- Key outcomes of the Levy Review included a five-year schedule of increases and a commitment to investigate extending the levy boundary to regional areas.
- The new Waste Levy Advocacy Position uses contemporary language emphasises:
 - Full hypothecation of the Levy;
 - The key areas of expenditure for the Levy;
 - Opposition to the expansion of the Levy's geographic application;
 - Opposition to the application of the Levy to resource recovery activities; and
 - The need for a clear evidence-based rationale for setting and expending the Levy.
- The Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) endorsed the new Advocacy Position in February 2024.

MOTION

Moved: Mr Stephen Cain
Seconded: Cr Bernard Ryan

- 1. Supports all Matters for Decision as listed above in the May 2024 State Council Agenda, and**
- 2. Notes all Matters for Noting, other Policy Team and Committee Reports and Organisational Reports as listed in the May 2024 State Council Agenda.**

AMENDMENT

Moved: Cr Kathryn Hamilton
Seconded: Mr Stephen Cain

That the East Metropolitan Zone amends ITEM 7.1, 2d to be as follows:

- 2) d Facilitate the monitoring and compliance of Product Stewardship Schemes.**

And removal of point 3.

THE AMENDED MOTION NOW READS

That State Council:

1. **Replace the existing WALGA *Waste Levy Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 7.4 Waste Management Funding*.**

Local Government considers that:

1. **Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy funds should be hypothecated to strategic waste management activities in line with the State Waste Strategy and strongly opposes the application of the Levy to non-waste management related activities, such as funding State Government core activities; and**
2. **The Levy should not be applied to licensed landfills outside the metropolitan area.**

2. **Endorse a new Waste Levy Advocacy Position as follows:**

The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy (the Levy) was established in WA to fund programs relating to the management, reduction, reuse, recycling, monitoring or measurement of waste and administering the fund. The current Levy is applied to waste generated, or landfilled, in the Perth metropolitan area.

Currently, only 25% of the collected funds are retained for strategic waste management activities, 75% are allocated to the ongoing operations of the Department responsible for administration of the Levy.

Local Government considers that:

1. **The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy funds must be fully hypothecated to strategic waste management activities in line with the State Waste Strategy and not be used for non-waste management related activities, such as funding State Government core activities.**
2. **Strategic waste management activities funded by the State Government should:**
 - a. **Provide adequate funding and support for Regional Councils, non-metropolitan and metropolitan Local Governments;**
 - b. **Reflect the targets and priorities within the Waste Strategy;**
 - c. **Fully fund and acknowledge the life cycle costs of infrastructure and services; and**
 - d. **Facilitate the monitoring and compliance, Product Stewardship Schemes.**
3. **The Levy should not be applied to waste received at premises undertaking licensed activities whose primary purpose is resource recovery.**
4. **The Levy must be supported by a clear, evidence-based rationale to demonstrate the suitability of how charges are set, how and where funds are allocated, and the extent to which it is delivering on its objectives.**

The amendment was put.

CARRIED (8/1)

That the East Metropolitan Zone supports ITEM 7.1 listed as amended above in the May 2024 State Council Agenda as amended above.

CARRIED (9/0)

7.2 POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 8.1 Environment Policy Team Report
- 8.2 Governance Policy Team Report
- 8.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report
- 8.4 People and Place Policy Team Report
- 8.5 Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report

7.3 MATTERS FOR NOTING/INFORMATION

- 9.1 WALGA 2023 Emergency Management Survey
- 9.2 Tree Retention Model Local Planning Policy
- 9.3 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Plan Implementation
- 9.4 Planning and Building Performance Monitoring Project
- 9.5 2024 WALGA Aboriginal Engagement Forum

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Paige McNeil
Seconded: Cr George Sekulla

That the East Metropolitan Zone notes all Matters for Noting, other Policy Team and Committee Reports and Organisational Reports as listed in the May 2024 State Council Agenda.

CARRIED (9/0)

8 ZONE BUSINESS

8.1 WASTE FUNDING ADVOCACY

By the Town of Bassendean

BACKGROUND

The WA Waste Levy, collected annually by Local Authorities as a portion of rates on behalf of the State Government, has a disproportionate amount of those collected funds, i.e. 75% going to State Government consolidated revenue whilst only 25% of the remaining revenue is directed back to the operation of the Waste Authority that oversees grants, education programs, and sets recycling and waste minimisation targets. A levy on metropolitan waste was first introduced in 1998 with the stated purpose “to provide funding for waste management and recycling programs”.

The Waste Levy plays a key role in achieving the objectives of Western Australia’s Waste avoidance and resource recovery strategy 2030 by generating revenue to fund programs which support the strategy.

Objective

A return to 100% of the revenue generated by the Waste Levy to be allocated to the WA Waste Authority to assist in funding the shortfall in waste minimisation programs and circular economy infrastructure.

The WA Government, through partnerships with the local government sector, could fast-track circular economy initiatives to significantly lower carbon emissions and reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

There is an expectation from communities that the WA Government's carbon emissions reduction targets relating to waste will be underpinned by provision of adequate infrastructure and supporting services to deliver results on the ground.

This Motion is urgently seeking the assistance of the WA Government to address the shortfall of waste infrastructure by establishing appropriate and adequate funding mechanisms, either as grants and/or interest free long term investment partnerships between the state and the local government sector and their regional associations.

Supporting argument using FOGO as an example:

For example, the lack of FOGO processing capabilities and other infrastructure across the state is a significant concern as various local governments attempt to reduce methane emissions by diverting organic waste from landfill. Source separation and recycling of household organic waste aligns with Commonwealth and State Government strategies for waste reduction, reuse and recycling. Development of circular economy processes will add real value to local communities with the production of new materials, job creation and economic development. Food waste costs the Australian economy about \$20 Billion per year and closing the loop on this priority waste stream is critical.

Lack of processing and other waste infrastructure is a serious impediment to achieving net zero targets. Many local governments lack the resources to underwrite the establishment of new processing infrastructure, or to expand existing processing infrastructure to receive increasing volumes of FOGO. This fact is a significant impediment to the timely adoption of FOGO programs at a local level.

FOGO is the single biggest high impact emissions mitigation action currently available. FOGO processing is a joint responsibility of local, state and federal government, with local government's role as community implementor and catalyser and state/federal government joint role as policy makers, funders and change-makers.

Environmental benefits include:

- Greenhouse gas savings equivalent to 0.22 Tco₂-e per household pa. as a result of diverting FOGO from landfill
- Returning organic matter to carbon deficient soils building soil health and water retention
- Reducing reliance on synthetic fertilisers
- Using material close to the source to reduce transport emissions
- Achieving net zero targets, nationally Investing in FOGO processing facilities will result in:
 - Delivering state and federal government targets for Carbon Emissions Reduction and the National Healthy Soils Strategy.
 - Achieving a typical overall recovery rate of 67% with a 3-bin FOGO system where 95% of the FOGO material is diverted from landfill (an average of 300kg per household per annum).
 - Regional prosperity through enduring jobs and growth (National Taskforce extra 6 jobs per 10kT of material).
 - Reducing around 18% of global methane emissions by removing organics from landfills.

The business case for FOGO processing facility investment is compelling, and assistance from the WA Government will support local governments to transition to net zero targets more swiftly.

Such collaboration between State and Local Governments will deliver a strong economic return for the state.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

The proposed motion on Waste Funding Advocacy is consistent with WALGA's current policy position on the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Levy, which advocates for the full hypothecation of Levy funds to strategic waste management initiatives.

The Policy Statement and Advocacy Position have recently been reviewed and will be considered at the May State Council meeting (refer agenda item 7.1). The updated Policy Statement and Advocacy Position are consistent with the previous position and offer a greater level of detail regarding the need for fully funded strategic initiatives, including the provision of effective infrastructure and services, and supporting programs such as Product Stewardship Schemes.

WALGA's State Budget Submission calls for full hypothecation of the Levy to waste initiatives focusing on waste avoidance and maximising resource recovery, while operational costs for the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation should be funded through consolidated revenue.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Kathryn Hamilton
Seconded: Cr Giorgia Johnson

That the East Metropolitan Zone requests WALGA advocates to the WA Government that appropriate funding mechanisms be established as grants and/or interest free long term investment partnerships with the Local Government sector and their regional associations, to fast-track the establishment of infrastructure that improves circular waste processing within the state.

CARRIED (8/1)

8.2 ADOPTION OF POLICY AND ADVOCACY PRIORITISATION FRAMEWORK

By Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance

BACKGROUND

State Council uses a Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework to guide discussion and decision-making on policy and advocacy issues. The Framework was developed in 2020 on the request of State Council to assist State Councillors in determining the priority of a particular issue relative to existing (and competing) policy and advocacy priorities.

The Framework (included below) utilises 11 criteria to sharpen thinking (e.g. the impact on the Local Government sector, the number of Member Local Governments affected, the level of support amongst the public or other stakeholders, etc.), and encourage decision-makers to consider the wider context and impacts of the issue before settling on a pathway forward.

The Great Southern Country Zone also adopted the Prioritisation Framework not long after it was developed in 2020.

COMMENT

It is proposed that all Zones consider adopting the Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework as included below.

If the Zone were to adopt the Prioritisation Framework, Zone Delegates could use it to guide their decision-making when determining whether or not to request action or advocacy from WALGA on a particular issue (that is, sector-wide issues). Issues that are not sufficiently prioritised (that is, regional issues) could instead be dealt with at the Zone level (e.g. through direct advocacy efforts on behalf of the Zone).

The Prioritisation Framework could also be used by Zone Delegates when drafting Agenda items and motions on policy or advocacy issues, using the criteria as prompts for what kind of information to include.

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

How to use the Framework:

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

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

Impact on Local Government Sector Impact on Local Government sector without intervention	High	Medium	Low
Reach Number of member Local Governments affected	Sector-wide	Significant (multiple regions, Zones, or bands)	Few
Influence Capacity to influence decision makers	High	Medium	Low
Principles Alignment to core principles such as autonomy, funding, general competence	Strong	Partial	Peripheral
Clarity Policy change needed is clear and well-defined	Clear	Partial	Unclear
Decision-maker support Level of support among decision-makers (political and administrative)	High	Medium	Low
Public support Level of support among the public or other stakeholders	High	Medium	Low
Positive consequences for WALGA Prospect of positive consequences for WALGA. E.g.	High	Medium	Low

enhanced standing among members or leverage for other issues.			
Negative consequences for WALGA Prospect of negative consequences for WALGA for not undertaking the advocacy effort. E.g. diminished standing among members or other stakeholders.	High	Medium	Low
Partnerships Potential for partnerships with other stakeholders	Yes (3+)	Possibly (1-2)	No (0)

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Paige McNeil

Seconded: Cr George Sekulla

That the East Metropolitan Zone adopt the Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework to determine the priority of a particular policy or advocacy issue, and guide future decision-making.

CARRIED (9/0)

8.3 IMPORTANCE OF WALGA BECOMING A REGISTERED EMPLOYER ORGANISATION

By Tony Brown, Executive Director, Member Services,

BACKGROUND

Currently, WALGA is a registered industrial agent under the [Industrial Relations Act 1979 \(WA\) \(IR Act\)](#) which allows us to:

- appear as an agent for a WA Local Government or Regional Council (**Local Government**) in the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission (**WAIRC**), Industrial Magistrate's Court or Industrial Appeal Court (**State Courts**); and
- provide advice or other services to Local Governments in relation to 'industrial matters' as defined in s.7 of the IR Act.

Since the mandate for Local Governments¹ to operate in the State industrial relations (**IR**) system from 1 January 2023, unions² have commenced various Local Government State awards³ (**LG State Awards**) variation claims in the WAIRC to amend industry employment conditions including to:

- increase minimum wages for outside workers;
- introduce Fair Work standards in the State system (increase casual loading from 20 to 25%; insert casual conversion; and insert flexible working arrangements) and other conditions (insert employment equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons;

¹ with the exception of the Shires of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands

² The Western Australian Municipal, Administrative, Clerical and Services Union of Employees (**WASU**) and the Local Government, Racing and Cemeteries Employees Union (WA) (**LGRCEU**)

³ The [Local Government Officers' \(Western Australia\) Award 2021](#) and the [Municipal Employees \(Western Australia\) Award 2021](#). These awards have not been updated significantly since prior to the introduction of the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth). They were old 1999 Federal awards which were registered without amendment as interim awards in 2011 in the State system. They then became State awards in 2021. No significant amendments have been made to these awards over 23 years.

- insert cultural and ceremonial leave; and amend severance pay for regional redundancies); and
- increase industry allowance for compensation for disabilities on construction and maintenance work.

In addition the WASU, LGRCEU and other unions (such as the **Construction, Forestry, and Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU)**) as 'employee organisations' can make industrial agreements with Local Government employers under the IR Act.

A [recent decision of the WAIRC](#) has outlined although WALGA may intervene in award matters we are unable to represent named LG State Award employers and the broader Local Government sector in our own right.

Despite WALGA's advocacy since December 2022, the State Government has not agreed a pathway for WALGA to be provided with standing as an employer organisation under the IR Act.

For WALGA to represent Local Governments' views and have the same standing as the unions under the IR Act it has become vital for WALGA to seek to amend its constitution to apply to become an employer organisation.

If WALGA was to become an employer organisation it would provide more opportunity for WALGA to modernise the LG State Awards and intervene in industrial matters concerning the Local Government sector. In addition, the WAIRC is more likely to notify WALGA of award applications or variations and industrial agreement changes reducing the risk of unions being able to change the terms and conditions of the sector, with limited to no input from Local Governments or WALGA.

COMMENT

WALGA will be looking to amend its constitution to enable WALGA to become a registered employer organisation at the 2024 AGM in October 2024.

An agenda item will be prepared for the June/July round of Zone/State Council meetings detailing the proposed amendments.

This item is for the Zones awareness of the need for WALGA to become an employer organisation and to note that constitutional amendments will be required.

For any questions about the constitutional amendment process, please contact Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services, tbrown@walga.asn.au or (08) 9213 2051.

Noted

9 OTHER BUSINESS

Nil.

10 EXECUTIVE REPORTS

10.1 WALGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WALGA representative, Mr Ian Duncan presented the President's Report. The report was attached within the agenda.

Noted

10.2 STATE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT TO THE ZONE

WALGA State Councillor, President Cr Paige McNeil presented on the previous State Council meeting.

Noted

11 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the East Metropolitan Zone will be held on Thursday, 20 June 2024 at the City of Belmont commencing at 6:30pm.

12 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.11pm.