

Central Country Zone

MINUTES

Friday, 17 November 2023

Commenced at 9:30am

Venue

**Shire of Lake Grace
Lake Grace Sports Pavilion.
Corner of Bishop and Bennett Street,
Lake Grace**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Opening and Welcome	4
	The first item of the meeting will be the conduct of elections.....	4
2	ELECTIONS	4
2.1	Elections of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Central Country Zone	4
2.2	Elections of State Council and Deputy State Council Representatives	5
2.3	Election of up to three (3) Zone Executive Committee Members	6
2.4	Election of Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee	6
3.	Host Council Presentation	7
4.	Attendance and Apologies	8
5.	Declarations of Interest	10
6.	Announcements.....	10
7.	Guest Speakers / Deputations	10
7.1	WA Country Health Service - Wheatbelt.....	10
8.	Members of Parliament.....	10
9.	Agency Reports	11
9.1	Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries (DLGSC).....	11
9.2	Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt (RDAW)	11
9.3	Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC)	11
9.4	Main Roads Western Australia	11
10.	Minutes.....	12
10.1	Confirmation of Minutes, Central Country Zone meeting, Friday, 25 August 2023.....	12
10.2	Business Arising from the Minutes, the Central Country Zone Meeting	12
10.2.1	(Item 8.2.1) Waste Management Funding	12
10.2.2	(Item 9.2) Non-Standard Water Services	12
10.3	Minutes, Executive Committee Meeting, Wednesday, 8 November 2023	14
10.3.1	(Item 4.2.1) State Government Changes to Gun Laws	14
10.3.2	(Item 5.3) Audited Financial Statements to 30 June 2023.....	15
10.3.3	(Item 5.6) Proposed 2024 meeting dates.....	15
10.3.4	(Item 5.10) Minister for Local Government.....	17
10.4	Minutes, Executive Committee Meeting, on Wednesday, 8 November 2023	17
11.	Zone Business.....	17
11.1	Red Tape Reduction Registrar.....	17
11.2	Strategic Planning Workshop	17
11.3	Roadworks during Toal Fire Bans	18
11.4	2023 Resolution for changes to Electoral Process.....	18
12.	Zone Reports.....	19
12.1	Zone President Report	19
12.2	Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC).....	19
12.3	Wheatbelt Interagency Health and Wellbeing Plan Advisory Group.....	19
12.5	WALGA RoadWise.....	20



13.	Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) Business ...	20
13.1	State Councillor Report	20
13.2	WALGA Status Report.....	21
13.3	WALGA President’s Report.....	25
13.4	Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Matters for Decision	25
13.4.1	State Council Agenda Items – 6 December 2023.....	25
14.	Emerging Issues.....	30
15.	Date, Time, and Place of Next Meetings.....	30
16.	Closure	30

1 Opening and Welcome

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9:30am.

1.1 **Welcome:**

The Zone Chair welcomed Zone members and provided OSH/bathroom/exit information to those in attendance.

1.2 **Share your name and Local Government:**

Delegates were reminded to ensure that they call their name and Local Government when taking the floor to allow for accurate Minutes to be recorded.

The first item of the meeting was the conduct of elections.

2 Elections

Pursuant to the WALGA Constitution, the Secretariat assumed the Chair for conducting the election of office bearers.

Guidelines for elections were distributed to Member Councils via email dated 19 October 2023.

Nominations were submitted preferably by Wednesday, 8 November. However, nominations could still be submitted prior to the commencement of the Zone meeting and from the floor.

2.1 Elections of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Central Country Zone

The election for the Chair and Deputy Chair was conducted. The term is two years expiring in November 2025, in line with the terms of State Council representatives and in sync with Local Government Elections.

Zone Chairperson:

The following nomination was received for the position of Chair for 2 years, November 2023 to November 2025.

- Des Hickey Shire of Corrigin

No further nominations were received.

DECLARATION

That Cr Des Hickey be elected as Chairperson of the of the Central Country Zone for the term of 2 years, November 2023 to November 2025.



Deputy Zone Chairperson:

No written nominations were received for the position of Deputy Chair.

Nominations were received from the floor:

- President Cr Leigh Ballard Shire of Narrogin

DECLARATION

That President Leigh Ballard be elected as Deputy Chairperson of the Central Country Zone for the term of 2 year, November 2023 to November 2025.

2.2 Elections of State Council Representatives and Deputy State Council Representatives to the Central Country Zone

WALGA incorporates a 24 member State Council with its members derived from Metropolitan and Country Zones. The State Council is chaired by the Association President.

In accordance with sub-clause 9(3) of the WALGA Constitution representatives and deputy representatives to the State Council shall be elected by Zones of the Metropolitan and Country constituencies for two (2) year terms, commencing from the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2023 and concluding at the Ordinary Meeting of State Council two years later.

For the Central Country Zone, there is one (1) representative position on State Council and one (1) deputy representative position. The term is from the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2023 and concluding at the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2025.

State Councillor:

The following written nominations were received for the position of State Council Representative:

- President Leigh Ballard Shire of Narrogin
- Cr Phillip Blight Shire of Wagin

No further nominations were received from the floor.

In accordance with the guidelines endorsed by State Council, candidates were afforded the opportunity to make a 2 minute election bid prior to the secret ballot being taken.

DECLARATION

That Cr Phil Blight be elected as State Council Representative of the Central Country Zone to the State Council for the term of 2 years, December 2023 to December 2025.



Deputy State Councillor:

No written nominations were received for the position of Deputy State Council Representative.

One nomination was received from the floor:

- President Leigh Ballard Shire of Narrogin

DECLARATION

That President Leigh Ballard be elected as Deputy State Council Representative of the Central Country Zone to the State Council for the term of 2 years, December 2023 to December 2025.

We ask the elected delegates to note the following details:

WALGA will host a State Councillor Induction Session on Thursday, 30 November. Further information will be e-mailed shortly.

2.3 Election of up to three (3) Zone Executive Committee Members of the Central Country Zone

Automatic Executive Committee membership will include the Zone President, Deputy Zone President and the State Councillor Representative.

The election for the Zone Executive Committee representatives was conducted. The term is two years expiring in November 2025, in line with the terms of Zone Delegates and in sync with Local Government Elections.

Nominations for up to three Zone Executive Committee Representatives were taken from the floor.

Should a ballot be required, nominees will be afforded the opportunity to provide a two (2) minute election bid.

Each voting delegate will be entitled to cast one (1) vote in the ballot process. The candidates with the greater number of votes will be elected.

Nominations were received from the floor:

- Cr Katrina Crute Shire of Brookton
- Cr Julie Russel Shire of Wickelpin
- Cr Karen Harrington Shire of West Arthur

DECLARATION

That Cr Katrina Crute, Cr Julie Russel and Cr Karen Harrington, be elected as Zone Executive Committee representative for the term of 2 years, November 2023 to November 2025.

2.4 Election of Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee of the Central Country Zone – 1 Delegate and 1 Deputy Delegate

The election for the Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee of the Central Country Zone was conducted.

Delegate

Nominations for the Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee were taken from the floor.

Should a ballot be required, nominees will be afforded the opportunity to provide a two (2) minute election bid.

Each voting delegate will be entitled to cast one (1) vote in the ballot process. The candidate with the greater number of votes will be elected.

One nomination was received from the floor:

- Jackie McBurney Shire of Pingelly

DECLARATION

That Cr Jackie McBurney be elected as the Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee Delegate of the Central Country Zone.

Deputy Delegate

Nominations for the Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee Deputy Delegate will be taken from the floor.

Should a ballot be required, nominees will be afforded the opportunity to provide a two (2) minute election bid.

Each voting delegate will be entitled to cast one (1) vote in the ballot process. The candidate with the greater number of votes will be elected.

One nomination was received from the floor:

- Cr Karen Harrington Shire of West Arthur

DECLARATION

That Cr Karen Harrington be elected as Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee Deputy Delegate of the Central Country Zone

Cr Des Hickey assumed the role as Chair.

Cr Hickey congratulated all those recently elected and thanked delegates for their contribution to the Zone.

3. Host Council Presentation

Cr Len Armstrong, President from the Shire of Lake Grace extended a welcome to delegates and guests and provided a presentation on the Shire.
The presentation is attached – **Attachment 1**

4. Attendance and Apologies

Attendance

Shire of Beverley	President Cr David White Mr Stephen Gollan, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Brookton	President Cr Katrina Crute Cr Charlene Hayden Mr Gary Sherry, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Corrigin	President Cr Des Hickey Deputy President Cr Sharon Jacobs Ms Natalie Manton, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Cuballing	Deputy President Cr Rob Harris Cr Adrian Kowald Mr Stan Scott, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Dumbleyung	President Cr Amy Knight Mr Gavin Treasure Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Kulin	President Cr Grant Robins Mr Alan Leeson Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Lake Grace	President Cr Len Armstrong Deputy President Stephen Hunt Mr Alan George Chief Executive Officer, non-voting Craig Elefsen, Manager Infrastructure Services - observer
Shire of Narrogin	President Leigh Ballard (Chair) Cr Clive Bartron Mr Dale Stewart Chief Executive Officer, non-voting Cr Josh Pomykala - observer
Shire of Pingelly	President Cr Jackie McBurney Deputy President Cr Peter Wood
Shire of Quairading	President Cr Jo Haythornthwaite Deputy President Cr Trevor Stacey
Shire of Wagin	President Cr Phillip Blight Cr Geoff West - observer Mr Mark Hook, A/Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Wandering	President Cr Ian Turton



Deputy President Sheryl Little
Mr Alan Hart Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Shire of West Arthur

President Cr Neil Morrell
Deputy President Cr Karen Harrington
Mr Rajinder S Sunner, A/Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Shire of Wickepin

President Cr Julie Russell
Mr Tim Clynych, A/Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Guests

Wheatbelt Development Commission	Susan Hall, Chief Executive Officer
Main Roads WA	Brad Pearce, Operations Manager
Water Corporation	Michael Roberts, Regional Manager Goldfields & Agricultural Region
Regional Development Australia WA	Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development

Members of Parliament

Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for Agricultural Region

WALGA

Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services
Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance

Apologies

Shire of Beverley	Deputy President Cr Dee Ridgway
Shire of Cuballing	President Cr Eliza Dowling
Shire of Dumbleyung	Deputy President Cr Grant Lukins
Shire of Kulin	Cr Robbie Bowey
Shire of Pingelly	Mr Andrew Dover, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Quairading	Ms Natalie Ness, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Wagin	Deputy President Bryan Kilpatrick
Shire of West Arthur	Mr Vin Fordham Lamont, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Wickepin	Mr Nathan Cain, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Williams	Cr Jarrad Logie
	Mr Geoff McKeown Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Members of Parliament

Hon Steve Martin MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region
Hon Colin de Grussa MLC, Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Martin Aldridge MLC, Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt
Hon Peter Rundle MLA, Member for Roe
Hon Darren West MLC, Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Sandra Carr MLC, Member for Agricultural Region

Main Roads WA

Fred Steer, Operations Manager

Wheatbelt Development Commission	Renee Manning, Principal Regional Development Officer - Central East
DLGSC	Samantha Cornthwaite, Regional Manager Wheatbelt
WALGA	Rodney Thornton, Regional Road Safety Advisor

Attachments to Agenda

The following are provided as attachments to the minutes:

1. Item 3 Host Council Presentation
2. Item 9.3 Wheatbelt Development Commission report
3. Item 9.4 Main Roads report
4. Item 11.1 Red Tape Reduction Registrar
5. Item 13.4.1 State Council Agenda - [Agenda](#)

5. Declarations of Interest

Nil

6. Announcements

Nil

7. Guest Speakers / Deputations

7.1 WA Country Health Service - Wheatbelt

Nancy Bineham, Director Strategy, Change & Service Development was an apology for this meeting. Nancy was invited to present on *Planning for Health and Hospital Services in the Wheatbelt* as well as *staff attraction and retention strategies including housing, incentives and contracts for permanent staff*. Nancy hopes to attend the February meeting.

Noted

8. Members of Parliament

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

Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for Agricultural Region

- Firearms
 - Consultation process now closed
 - Petition to extend consultation period
 - Consultation paper available on the internet, outlining everything planned for the new Bill
- School bus review
 - New improvements for school bus eligibility for rural students
 - Improves choices for kids in terms of which school to attend / flexibility
- Infrastructure program

- Federal review, changes to funding
- May affect Great Southern road network
- Energy relief for eligible small businesses
 - Applications needed by end of the month
 - \$650 rebate
- Accepting EOI from community housing providers for social housing
 - Looking into whether keystart grants can be extended to community housing groups
 - Have made announcements recently re short term accommodation – incentive of \$10k to return these to the rental market
- ACH Act
 - Repeals have gone through
 - Some changes made to original Act
- South Coast marine park
 - Draft plans in mid December, then opening up for comment

9. Agency Reports

9.1 Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries (DLGSC)

Samantha Cornthwaite, Regional Manager Wheatbelt was an apology. A report was provided.

Noted

9.2 Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt (RDAW)

Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development provided a report.

Mandy announced that this will be her last Zone meeting as she will be stepping back from her role at RDAW. Mandy introduced the new Director Regional Development, Josh Pomykala.

Cr Katrina Crute – moved to thank Mandy on behalf of the Zone.

Noted

9.3 Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC)

Susan Hall, (Acting) Chief Executive Officer, provided an update. The Wheatbelt Development Commission report is now attached (**Attachment 2**)

Noted

9.4 Main Roads Western Australia

Brad Pearce, Operations Manager Narrogin, provided an update to the Zone, **Attachment 3** to the Minutes.

Brad announced that this will be his last Zone meeting as he will be stepping away from his role at Main Roads. Fred Steer will take up the role of Operations Manager Narrogin going forward.

Zone Chair, Cr Des Hickey thanked Brad for his reports and contributions to the Zone.

Noted

10. Minutes

10.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Central Country Zone meeting held on Friday, 25 August 2023

The Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held on Friday, 25 August 2023 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Katrina Crute
Seconded: Cr Jackie McBurney

That the Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held on Friday, 25 August 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

10.2 Business Arising from the Minutes from the Central Country Zone Meeting held on Friday, 25 August 2023

10.2.1 (Item 8.2.1) Waste Management Funding

The Minister for the Environment has advised that the State Government will consult later this year with businesses and the community on a proposal to expand the waste levy boundary into regional areas.

The Ministers Office has agreed to a meeting with the Zone's deputation during this consultation window - Cr Leigh Ballard, Cr Des Hickey, Cr Phil Blight, and Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Environment, WALGA. We are awaiting suggested dates for the meeting and will update the Committee at the earliest.

Noted

10.2.2 (Item 9.2) Non-Standard Water Services

By the Shire of Dumbleyung

Background:

Water Corporation recently contacted the Shire of Dumbleyung to advise of its intentions to notify impacted residents of its decision to cease providing standard water services to the Moulyinning township.

The Shire is aware that this decision will impact on all people and properties (residences) located in the Moulyinning townsite, including CBH and the Moulyinning Hall.

The impact of this decision means that whilst supply may continue, Water Corp will no longer guarantee volume (pressure), frequency and quality of that supply.

As a transitional measure, Water Corp has offered to fund the cost and installation of alternative on-site treatment measures i.e. water tanks, etc. But the end user then bears the cost and responsibility for the ongoing maintenance and eventual replacement of the same.

The Shire of Dumbleyung has a number of concerns in relation to this Water Corp decision, namely:

1. The Shire (and residents) being asked to take on responsibility for provision of potable drinking water that was previously the responsibility of Water Corp
2. The public health and risk implications to the Shire (and residents) in relation to 1 above
3. The ongoing cost implications to the Shire (and residents) in relation to 1 above

To summarise, Water Corp is asking the Shire of Dumbleyung (and residents) to take on responsibility for something that has been previously the responsibility of (and instigated by) Water Corp.

Despite Water Corp's offer to provide funds to implement agreed alternative treatment solutions, the ongoing water quality, operations and maintenance/replacement cost risks is assumed by the Shire of Dumbleyung (and residents).

It is the Shire of Dumbleyung's position that any change to water provision arrangements should remain the responsibility of Water Corp, despite the change in servicing standards.

The Shire has raised this matter for consideration at the most recent WALGA Central Country Zone meeting held in Kulin. The Zone unanimously endorsed the following resolution:

'That the Central Country Zone:

1. *Rejects Water Corporation attempts to classify regional sites as a 'Non-Standard Water Service' (unless specific agreement is reached with a Local Government Authority);*
2. *Formally writes to Water Corporation and the Minister for Water confirming this position;*
3. *Requests that WALGA supports the position of the Central Country Zone and rejects the Water Corporation's attempts to classify regional sites as a 'Non-Standard Water Service'; and*
4. *Requests WALGA to engage with the Minister for Water to retain the current services unless specific agreement is reached with a Local Government Authority'.*

Further the Hon Steve Martin, MLC has written to the Minister for Water seeking clarification in relation to this matter and Shire representatives were present at a recent Rural Water Council of WA Meeting in which the Minister for Water attended (and was engaged). A copy of Steve's letter to the Minister and the Minister's response is attached. The Shire since clarified what was meant by the Minister's response '*... there will be no change to the drinking water supplied to the nine identified properties within the Shire...*'. Water Corp's response was that '*I believe the intention of the Minister's words was to point out that the water being supplied to these properties is not changing, which aligns with Water Corporation's communications*'. Difficult to try and reconcile '*not changing*' with Water Corp's clear intent to diminish (walk away) from their provision of service responsibilities (particularly water quality).

Thus far, all Shire attempts to seek a reversal to this Water Corp decision have been rejected. In the Shire's most recent (email) contact with Water Corp, the following Shire advice was provided:

- *'Moulyinning is a township, not an isolated site. The Moulyinning community was originally established with the expectation and understanding of normal power and water services in support. The recent Water Corp advice that this service is now to be classified as 'non-standard', conflicts with the basic premise on why these townships were originally established; and now threatens its future existence. Who's going to buy and invest (& potentially grow) these small towns, if basic services are changed or withdrawn?'*

- *A potential solution to the (water quality) problem would be for Water Corp to invest and install in a new Chlorinator to service Moulyinning township. Why hasn't this option been considered?*
- *The proposed Water Corp NSW solution has unfair and unreasonable cost and risk implications to all Moulyinning residents, including local government (as previously advised).*
- *Water Corp continue to state that the issue is one of discovery and communications oversight. Communications is the form being used to convey Water Corp notice and messaging, not the cause. The real cause is lack of Water Corp water quality servicing to its customers to meet statutory licensing requirements. And Water Corp intent is to 'wash its hands' of the subject matter by walking away from meeting minimum performance requirements.*
- *To be clear, it is Water Corp that created this problem and needs to be accountable to step up and resolve this matter to the satisfaction of its customers.*
- *The Shire of Dumbleyung again asks that Water Corp identifies and implements an alternate solution which provides a standard water service to all Moulyinning residents'.*

The Shire of Dumbleyung will continue to pursue this important matter until a satisfactory provision of standard water services outcome for our Moulyinning township community is achieved. Any WALGA State support and assistance in relation to this matter would be appreciated.

The Executive Officer wrote to the Department of Water and received a reply - Attachment 4 of the Agenda.

In addition to the Zone writing to the Department of Water, Hon Steve Martin MLC wrote on behalf of the Shire of Dumbleyung and received a reply - Attachment 5 of the Agenda.

The Executive Officer advised that he will follow up with WALGA staff on this matter.

Noted

10.3 Minutes of the Central Country Executive Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 8 November 2023

The recommendations from the Executive Committee Meeting that require Zone consideration have been extracted for the Zones consideration.

10.3.1 (Item 4.2.1) State Government Changes to Gun Laws

Background:

The Executive Officer wrote to the Hon. Paul Papalia CSC MLA Minister for Police; Road Safety; Defence Industry; Veterans Issues in May of 2023. The Minister was invited to the June meeting to speak to;

'... further outline how the proposed changes to the way firearms legislation is to be implemented, as well as the defined process that led to these proposed changes.'

The Ministers office was unable to accept the invitation however did state they would supply a written response to the Zone. The Executive Officer is still following up on this response and will include in the next Agenda.

Action

The Zone Executive Officer will contact the Police and Ministers Office to see if we can get a response on this matter. The Executive Officer has made contact with the Ministers Office a number of times, most recently again on 26 October 2023. We are still awaiting a response.

Committee Discussion:

The Committee agreed this is still a matter of importance for Member communities.

Noted

10.3.2 (Item 5.3) Audited Financial Statements to 30 June 2023

By Nilpa Shah-Smith, Finance Manager, WALGA

BACKGROUND

The auditors have completed their audit fieldwork and reporting and have sent through the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023.

In addition to the signed 2022/2023 financials the signed audit report and signed management letter were attached to the agenda.

The Executive committee provide the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Leigh Ballard
Seconded: Deputy President Cr Karen Harrington

That the Zone endorse the audited annual financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023.
CARRIED

10.3.3 (Item 5.6) Proposed 2024 meeting dates

Background:

The below schedule of meeting dates was presented to the Committee for discussion. The Committee agreed to take this item to the Zone for discussion in order to select the most accommodating dates for the Members.

Zones dates are scheduled to coincide with the WALGA State Council meetings, the window for Zone dates for 2024 are listed as an additional column below.

Should alternate dates be agreed for the Zone, the Executive Dates will compliment the schedule.

ZONE

Proposed Zone Meeting Dates 2024	Time	Host Council	Window for Zone meetings to occur	State Council meeting Dates 2024
Friday 16 February	Friday 9.30 am	Narrogin	Thursday 15 – Monday 26 February	Wednesday 6 March
Friday 12 April	Friday 9.30 am	Pingelly	Thursday 11 – Monday 22 April	Wednesday 1 May
Friday 14 June	Friday 9.30 am	Quairading	Thursday 13 – Monday 24 June	Wednesday 3 July
Friday 16 August	Friday 9.30 am	Wagin	Thursday 15 – Monday 26 August	Regional Meeting 5-6 September
Friday 15 November	Friday 9.30 am	Wandering	Thursday 14 – Monday 25 November	Wednesday 4 December

This table below states the Ordinary Council meeting schedule for each Member Council to assist in the discussion.

Member Council	Ordinary Council meeting schedule
Shire of Corrigin	Third Tuesday of the month
Shire of Cuballing	Third Wednesday of the month
Shire of Kulin	Third Wednesday of the month
Shire of Pingelly	Third Wednesday of the month
Shire of Wickepin	Third Wednesday of the month
Shire of Williams	Third Wednesday of the month
Shire of Brookton	Third Thursday of the month
Shire of Dumbleyung	Third Thursday of the month
Shire of Wandering	Third Thursday of the month
Shire of West Arthur	Third Thursday of the month
Shire of Beverley	Fourth Tuesday of the month
Shire of Wagin	Fourth Tuesday of the month
Shire of Lake Grace	Fourth Wednesday of the month
Shire of Narrogin	Fourth Wednesday of the month
Shire of Quairading	Last Thursday of the Month

Moved: President Cr Julie Russell
Seconded: President Cr Katrina Crute

That the Zone meeting dates listed in the table be endorsed.

CARRIED

10.3.4 (Item 5.10) Minister for Local Government

The Executive Officer wrote to the Minister for Local Government, Hon David Michael, who has confirmed his attendance at the April 2024 Zone meeting.

Noted

10.4 Minutes of the Central Country Executive Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 8 November 2023

The Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 8 November 2023 were attached to the Agenda.

The remainder of the items are for the Zones consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Katrina Crute
Seconded: President Cr Phil Blight

That the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 8 November 2023 be noted, and the items not considered above be endorsed.

CARRIED

11. Zone Business

11.1 Red Tape Reduction Registrar

Background:

As resolved at the June 2023 meeting, please find attached the *Red Tape Reduction* spreadsheet (**Attachment 4**).

This is a standing item on the Agenda. Members are invited to populate this live document with red tape issues relevant to your Local Government.

Noted

11.2 Strategic Planning Workshop

Background:

The Zone participated in a Strategic Planning workshop prior to the August Zone meeting. This meeting was attended by elected members with the support of their Chief Executive Officers. The outcomes of the session were attached for discussion.

At the meeting, the strategic planning session resolved to:

1. *Draft an item recording the results of today's discussion for inclusion in the November agenda; and*
2. *Discuss strategic priorities of the Zone at the February meeting.*

Noted**11.3 Roadworks during Total Fire Bans**

The 'Road work during a Total Fire Ban, Proposed regulatory changes' presentation was received by WALGA from the Department of Fire and Emergency services on Friday, 27 October. This presentation, takes into consideration concerns raised by the Zone and brought to DFES's attention. Slides 13 through 15 outline the conditions and benefits of these proposed changes.

Noted**11.4 2023 Resolution for changes to Electoral Process**

By the Shire of Beverley

Background:

With changes brought into the amended *Local Government Act* to make compulsory the use of an Optional Preferential system of voting through Postal Voting, the Shire of Beverley found the experience frustrating and costly:

1. It proved difficult to explain to the community;
2. It also mandated the engagement of the West Australian Electoral Commission at significant cost;
3. The staff member engaged as Returning Officer found the system confusing and somewhat burdensome;
4. The count on the night took two hours and then a wait of one and a half hours before the Commission indicated that the process was successfully completed; and,
5. The Commission did not declare the result until 10:00 am Sunday morning via email which the Returning Officer did not see until she attended the office at midday.

Shire of Beverley	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
WAEC quote	-				\$18,000.00
WAEC actual cost	-				Invoice not received
Vacancies	5	6	4	6	3
Candidates	6	10	6	6	4
Status of election (Y/N)	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Number of Electors	1,323	1,357	1,365	-	1,410
Votes received	167	392	249	-	669
Cost for in-house	\$1,961.96	\$2577.76	\$2,799.29	\$2,126.30	
Additional staff 2023					\$940.00
Cost per vote	\$11.75	\$6.58	\$11.24		\$28.31*
Cost per Elector	\$1.48	\$1.90	\$2.05		\$13.43*

*Final cost awaiting invoice

Previous elections conducted by the Shire have always provided an opportunity for those community members interested, to attend the count on the Saturday night after which the Shire would provide

some light refreshments. At that point the election had been declared and candidates being aware of their success or otherwise.

On the Saturday night of the recent election there were only two members of the community present and even they had had enough by the end!

In fairness; the postal voting method proved positive with so many more electors participating. At this stage it is not known whether the postal voting method implied compulsion to do so given the Referendum the week before or not. This was evidenced by a few votes having no markings on them.

In summary, it is the cost above all other matters that concerns the Shire of Beverley when the final analysis revealed that, apart from greater participation, nothing else was gained and by no measure could it be described as being "fairer".

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr David White
Seconded: President Cr Katrina Crute

That the Central Country Zone request WALGA to advocate for a change to the current electoral system for Local Government to:

1. remove the compulsion of those Local Government entities within the Band 3 and 4 categories to opt out of the Optional Preferential Voting System to return to the First Past the Post voting system; and
2. remove the compulsion for internal elections to be carried out by optional preferential voting and return to First Past the Post method of voting.

CARRIED

Action

Suggestion: survey regional Returning Officers of their experiences with the LG elections, also survey those 6 LGs that conducted their own elections. Provide results to the next Zone meeting.

12. Zone Reports

12.1 Zone President Report

Cr Leigh Ballard thanked delegates for their support during his time as Zone Chair.

12.2 Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)

President Leigh Ballard provided an update to the Zone.

Noted

12.3 Wheatbelt Interagency Health and Wellbeing Plan Advisory Group

President Cr Jackie McBurney had nothing to report since the last meeting.



Noted

12.5 WALGA RoadWise

Rodney Thornton, Regional Road Safety Advisor was an apology for this meeting.

Noted

13. Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) Business

13.1 State Councillor Report

President Cr Phillip Blight

President Cr Phillip Blight provided the below report.

The annual regional meeting was held in Katanning in line with State Council policy to visit one metropolitan and one non-metropolitan zone each year.

Each local government in the Great Southern Zone had the opportunity to present to State Council and the common thread by all was housing. The shortage of accommodation was shown to be a major constraint to business and community/government. Many noting that Shires are being requested to provide housing for Police, teachers, nurses, doctors etc and local businesses have great difficulty in placing new staff.

Following shortly after that a note from Shire of West Arthur suggested that this issue (housing) be raised in the WALGA State Budget submission when the Flying Minute was active. I submitted that addition to the secretariat however it was viewed that it is of such strategic importance that it requires a specific pursuit of the subject.

The CC Zone could develop strategy position on housing.

The Matters for decision at this meeting were all endorsed by the Central Country Zone and were passed by State Council.

After speaking to his report, Cr Blight thanked delegates for his re-election.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Jackie

Seconded: David White

That the State Councillor Report be received.

CARRIED

13.2 WALGA Status Report

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

Presenting the Status Report for November 2023 which contains WALGA’s responses to the resolutions of previous Zone Meetings.

November 2023

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Central C	2022, 18 February Zone Agenda Item 11.1	That the Central Country Zone recommend that the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group be disbanded and request WALGA to consider establishing a policy forum to encompass all Freight issues.	The Agricultural Freight Group met on 18 September and agreed to put the group into abeyance pending any specific developments or opportunities that require the group to re-establish.	Complete	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Central C	23 June 2023 Zone Agenda Item 9.4 - Line Marking and Road Safety	That WALGA be requested to engage with Main Roads WA with a view to providing Local Government with greater flexibility and autonomy in relation to line marking thresholds and approval guidelines for rural and regional roads, consistent with the body of the report presented to the Central Country Zone meeting on 23 June 2023.	The Infrastructure Policy Team considered the matter on 5 July and resolved that WALGA develop an advocacy position that will provide Local Governments with greater flexibility and autonomy in providing line markings and to review the criteria for eligibility to provide and fund line marking, including audible markings, on roads to improve road safety for consideration by State Council. A key consideration is the acceptance of (financial) maintenance responsibility for some road markings and the obligations this places on future Councils.	Dec 2023	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Central C	26 August 2023 Zone Agenda Item 9.2 Water Corporation – Non-Standard Water Services	That the Central Country Zone: 1. Rejects Water Corporation attempts to classify regional sites as a ‘Non-Standard Water Service’ (unless specific agreement is reached with a Local Government Authority); 2. Formally writes to Water Corporation and the Minister for Water confirming this position; 3. Requests that WALGA supports the position of the Central Country Zone and rejects the Water Corporation’s attempts to classify regional sites as a ‘Non-Standard Water Service’; and	The Zone has sent correspondence regarding this matter. WALGA has also raised the matter with WaterCorp and will await a response to the Zone correspondence. Following discussion with WaterCorp it is WALGA’s understanding that there has been no reduction in service to Local Governments in these areas, but instead further data about drinking water quality that has led WaterCorp to reclassify the sites.	November 2023	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039

		4. Requests WALGA to engage with the Minister for Water to retain the current services, unless specific agreement is reached with a Local Government Authority.			
Central C	26 August 2023 Zone Agenda Item 12.2 Contaminated Sites	That the Central Country Zone request WALGA to: 1. investigate the extent that this issue is impacting regional Local Governments with registered landfill sites; and 2. engage with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, on behalf of the sector, to ensure that the Department's requirements are proportionate to the risk associated with a particular site.	The Environment and Waste Policy Team considered this matter at their September meeting and resolved. That the Environment and Waste Policy Team: 1. Support the Central Country Zone recommendation; and 2. Agree that WALGA: a. Investigate the extent that this issue is impacting regional Local Governments with registered landfill sites; and b. Engage with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, on behalf of the sector, to ensure that the Departments requirements are proportionate to the risk associated with a particular site. WALGA staff are following up with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to determine the extent of the issue.	November 2023	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039
Central C	23 June 2023 Zone Agenda Item 9.1 - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage	That the Central Country Zone request: 1. the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage to provide information on the cost to Local Governments of implementing the regulations; 2. WALGA to collate the information from the Local Governments feedback on the Aboriginal Heritage Act and the implementation of the Regulations; and 3. the State Government to underwrite any potential costs of Local Government complying with the requirements of the Aboriginal Heritage Act.	The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act (2021) is to be repealed and the amended Aboriginal Heritage Act (1972) is to be reintroduced. WALGA continues to advocate for Local Government exemption for costs associated with compliance with the Aboriginal Heritage legislation, in particular the fees payable for section 18 applications,	November 2023	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039
Central C	5 July 2023 State Council Agenda Item 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 Minister for Local Government, Hon David Michael has made a regulation change to the Financial Management regulations to only require Local Governments to revalue assets once every five years. This will occur with the next instalment of regulatory reforms as part of the current legislative reform process.	November 2023	Tony Brown Executive Director member Services tbrown@walga.asn.au 9213 2051

		<p>the processes, procedures and scope of audits are consistently applied.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 (<i>unless the OAG is directly auditing the Local Government</i>) 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 <u>including considering removing the impost of revaluing non-financial assets (roads and footpaths) from financial reporting requirements for Local Governments.</u> 	<p>This is very good news and an advocacy success for the Local Government sector and the Minister and Department of local Government assistance on this matter has been appreciated.</p> <p>WALGA will continue to work with the OAG to reform the audit process in line with sector feedback, with a particular focus on those issues above.</p> <p><i>Note: Amendment to Regulations were gazette on 19 October.</i></p>		
<p>Central C</p>	<p>14 April 2023 Zone Agenda Item 9.1 Financial Burden to Local Governments of Optional Preferential Voting</p>	<p>That WALGA forms a policy position and advocates that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. any Western Australian Electoral Commission fee increases for the 2023 Local Government elections are capped at 10% when compared with the 2021 rates; and 2. the CountWA software from Western Australian Electoral Commission is provided to Local Governments free of charge for the 2023 and subsequent Local Government elections. 	<p>WALGA's Governance Policy Team has considered this matter and has requested WALGA staff to conduct a review of Local Government elections 2015 – 2023 and provide a summary of findings in a future report, together with proposals for an alternative engagement strategy that provides for an independent assessment of WALGA's election advocacy. This work will inform advocacy to the State Government on the cost and processes involved in the WAEC conducting the elections including cost.</p>	<p>November 2023</p>	<p>Tony Brown Executive Director, Member Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au</p>

<p>Central C</p>	<p>2021 19 November Zone Agenda Item 12.1 Sector ICT solution</p>	<p>That the Zone request WALGA to research providers and the viability of an in-house IT system.</p>	<p>The idea of an all-of-sector model ICT solution is not viable for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different size Local Governments – no one size fits all; • Local Government’s being at different levels of need and maturity in the ICT requirements; • We are unlikely to get the requisite LG buy-in to warrant the investment; and • The inherent complexity of a custom-built system is time and cost-prohibitive. <p>A more workable suggestion is for a group of similar size/maturity level Local Governments to engage a consultant to define a model set that meets their needs. Any recommendations could be reviewed by a representative of the LG ICT Managers Network to ensure it is appropriate.</p> <p>It would be expected that the following range of recommendations are achievable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable hardware requirements (including remote options where appropriate) • Suggested lightweight accounting software • Baseline model directory structure • Security options • Backup software and procedures • Suitable internet options <p>WALGA is looking to assist in facilitating discussions on a shared service model to research this with a group of Local Governments further. Due to work priorities this work was not carried out in 2022, however work is scheduled this year.</p>	<p>November 2023</p>	<p>Tony Brown Executive Director, Member Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au</p>
<p>Central C</p>	<p>26 August 2023 Zone Agenda Item 9.3 Heavy Vehicles – Accredited Mass Management Scheme</p>	<p>That the Central Country Zone request WALGA to investigate the establishment of an Industry Working Group associated with Main Roads WA Accredited Mass Management Scheme across the Restricted Access Vehicle Network, with a view to reducing accelerated degradation and damage to rural and regional road networks as well as improving road safety for all users. Working Group membership shall be representative of relevant industry stakeholders but not necessarily be limited to (WALGA, Local Government, Main Roads WA, Department of Transport, CBH, relevant Heavy Vehicle Operators Association).</p>	<p>On-going, noting that this Zone resolution is yet to be considered by the Infrastructure Policy Team.</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031</p>



Zone Comment

This is an opportunity for Member Councils to consider the response from WALGA in respect to the matters that were submitted at the previous Zone Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Ian Thurton
Seconded: President Cr Jackie McBurney

That the Central Country Zone, WALGA Status Report for December 2023 be noted.

CARRIED

Action:

Executive Officer to follow up with WALGA staff on the Heavy Vehicles – Accredited Mass Management Scheme.

13.3 WALGA President's Report

The WALGA President's Report was attached to the Agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Jo Haythornthwaite
Seconded: President Cr Phil Blight

That the Central Country Zone notes the WALGA President's Report.

CARRIED

13.4 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Matters for Decision

13.4.1 State Council Agenda Items – 6 December 2023

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 full State Council Agenda can be found via link: [State Council Agenda 6 December](#)

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 2023 Annual General Meeting Resolutions

That:

1. the following resolutions from the 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the People and Place Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:
 - 5.1 Local Governments' representation at the State Administrative Tribunal relating to planning matters within its district

That WALGA lobby the State Government for legislative reform to enable Local Governments the automatic right to be a represented party at all State Administrative Tribunal hearings related to planning matters within its district.

5.2 Land Use Policy

That WALGA establish and promote policies to protect and prioritise the preservation of agricultural land against its displacement by non-agricultural activities that lead to a net reduction of the State's productive agricultural land.

5.4 Regional and Remote Housing

That WALGA advocates to the WA State and Commonwealth Governments to address the dire shortage of affordable key worker family housing options in regional and remote towns to encourage families to live and work in regional and remote towns. Social housing is addressed at both the State and Federal levels.

2. State Council notes that the following resolution is being considered in Agenda item 7.2 of this meeting Agenda:

5.3 Transparency – Management Order Determinations

That WALGA:

1. *Advocates for Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage to consult and collaborate with Local Governments in reviewing and publishing its policies, decision making criteria, guidelines and procedures associated with the administration of management orders;*
2. *Ensure the review recognises the cost burden on local governments in managing reserves and options for supporting local governments in meeting that responsibility; and*
3. *Calls for proactive consultation and advice to Local Government management bodies.*

7.2 Advocacy Position – Crown Land and Management Order Administration – Land Administration Act 1997

That WALGA endorse the below Advocacy Position:

Crown Land and Management Order Administration - Land Administration Act 1997

WALGA advocates to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) to:

1. *Apply the following principles when dealing with matters affecting Local Government's role in managing Crown land:*
 - a. *Local Government is an equal partner with State Government in managing, developing and administration of Crown land for community benefit.*
 - b. *Local Government should be provided timely advice and consulted where State Government proposals impact management of or investment in Crown land.*
 - c. *Ensure timely communication with Local Government where DPLH intends to challenge an intention to levy leasing or land use revenues under a power to lease arrangement.*
 - d. *Decision-making criteria, policy and procedure transparency contributes to whole of government efficiency, effectiveness and accountability.*
2. *Publish the policies and procedures that underpin decision making regarding:*
 - a. *Establishing, varying or revoking management orders.*
 - b. *Leasing Crown land or facilities, subject to a management order.*
 - c. *Decision review where a management body or proponent lessee is dissatisfied with a decision or process.*

7.3 Review of Public Open Space Advocacy Positions

That WALGA endorse:

1. the deletion of Advocacy Position 4.3 *Water Management*;
2. the deletion of Advocacy Position 4.4 *Public Open Space*; and
3. new Advocacy Position 6.11 *Public Open Space* as follows:

6.11 Public Open Space

New subdivisions and developments should provide appropriate Public Open Space (POS) or POS contributions to provide environmental benefits and meet the needs of the community.

The State Government should take a leadership role in the strategic planning of POS, in consultation with Local Government, including:

1. *Reviewing the requirement for a minimum 10 per cent of all new residential land to be provided as POS to determine if this metric is still appropriate.*
2. *Developing a 10+ year regional level sporting facilities plan to identify and prioritise gaps in regional sporting facilities and acquire and fund regional open spaces, specifically sporting facilities, in a timely manner to align with population growth.*
3. *Developing contemporary legislative and policy mechanisms to ensure that:*
 - a. *POS design and delivery:*
 - i. *appropriately allocates different POS uses and purposes, balancing environmental, recreational, sporting and community needs.*
 - ii. *does not have its use impeded by drainage and utilities facilities.*
 - iii. *is accessible and appropriately distributed.*
 - iv. *is cost effective to enable sustainable maintenance and replacement by Local Government.*
 - v. *is responsive to urban ecology, regional climatic conditions, and climate change.*
 - vi. *considers water requirements and availability as a priority, includes water sensitive urban design principles, and prioritises water allocations for the irrigation and maintenance of functional active recreational and sport facilities.*
 - b. *POS cash in lieu contributions are equitable, transparent, and simplified by:*
 - i. *streamlining the process to collect and expend cash in lieu contributions by delegating functions to Local Government.*
 - ii. *broadening how cash in lieu funds can be spent to include works beyond the current scope.*
 - iii. *allowing for the collection of cash in lieu contributions at development application stage and for all forms of subdivision, including two lot subdivisions or developments.*
 - iv. *investigating the option of a standard fixed rate contribution fee per lot or dwelling when contributions are intended for public open space upgrades.*
4. *Providing guidance documents and support to assist Local Governments with their strategic POS planning.*

7.4 2024 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members

That WALGA endorse the submission to the 2024 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members.

7.5 Household Hazardous Waste Policy Statement and Advocacy Position

That WALGA:

1. Rescind the 2003 WALGA *Household Hazardous Waste Policy Statement* and Advocacy Position 7.10 *Household Hazardous Waste*; and
2. Endorse a new Household Hazardous Waste Policy Statement and Advocacy Position as follows:

7.10 Household Hazardous Waste

1. *Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) is a small but significant component of the waste stream which requires specialised management strategies to protect human health, property and the environment.*
2. *This requires:*
 - a. *Effective Product Stewardship for all HHW; and*
 - b. *The maintenance and expansion of the HHW Program, funded by the State Government and Product Stewardship Schemes, to provide for the management of HHW collected from the community by Local Government.*

7.6 Waste Education Policy Statement and Advocacy Position

That WALGA:

1. Rescind the existing WALGA *Waste Management Education Policy Statement 2008* and Advocacy Position 7.8 Waste Management Education; and
2. Endorse a revised WALGA Waste Education Policy Statement 2023 and Advocacy Position as follows:
 1. *Waste education is essential part of waste management that empowers the community to engage in waste avoidance, reuse and recovery, and to use services correctly.*
 2. *Effective waste education requires:*
 - a. *Consistent communications by all stakeholders to ensure messages are clear and the community has confidence in the information provided.*
 - b. *A strategic and long-term investment from the State Government, with funding mechanisms in place to support and enable collaboration between Local Governments and Regional Councils.*
 - c. *Recognition of waste education in the definition of 'waste service' in the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007, in order to allow a charge for waste education as part of the waste service charge.*
 - d. *Identification of priority problematic materials within the waste stream and ongoing advocacy for evidence based alternative approaches.*
 - e. *Hypothecation of the waste levy for waste management purposes only.*

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Phillip Blight
Seconded: President Cr Katrina Crute

That the Central Country Zone:
Supports WALGA's *Waste Education Policy Statement and Advocacy Position* recommendation 1-2d inclusive as listed above in the December 2023 State Council Agenda with the addition of 2e, *Hypothecation of the waste levy for waste management purposes only and not to go to consolidated revenue.*

CARRIED

7.7 Submission E-Waste Landfill Ban Regulations

That WALGA endorse the Submission on the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (e-waste) Regulations 2023*.

7.8 Submission on Philanthropic Engagement Framework for Emergency Management

That WALGA endorse the submission to the State Emergency Management Committee on the Draft Philanthropic Engagement Framework for Emergency Management.

7.9 Submission to the WA Action Plan for Young People Consultation Paper

That WALGA endorse the submission to the *WA Action Plan for Young People Consultation Paper*.

POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 8.1** Environment and Waste Policy Team Report
- 8.2** Governance and Organisational Services 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

MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

- 9.1** Planning and Development Amendment Bill 2023 and Associated Regulations and Guidelines
- 9.2** WALGA Emergency Management Survey 2023
- 9.3** WALGA Submission on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Legislation dated 26 September 2023 and Update
- 9.4** Legal Response to the Local Government Approaches to Tree Retention Issues Paper
- 9.5** Flying Minute: Submission to the Review of the Main Roads Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Guidelines
- 9.6** Flying Minute – Draft Operational Policy 2.3: Planning for Public Open Space
- 9.7** Flying Minute – Submission on Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding Arrangements
- 9.8** Flying Minute – Objection to the 2023 WA Electoral Distribution Commission Proposed Boundaries
- 9.9** Flying Minute: Submission on the Exposure Draft of the Recycling and Waste Reduction (Export – Paper and Cardboard) Rules 202396
- 9.10** Flying Minute: Submission on National Asbestos Strategic Plan
- 9.11** Flying Minute: Draft Code of Practice for On-Site Wastewater Disposal
- 9.12** Flying Minute – 2024-25 WALGA State Budget Submission

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Deputy President Cr Karen Harrington
Seconded: President Cr Jackie McBurney

That the Central Country Zone:

- 1. Supports all Matters for Decision except item 7.6 as listed above in the December 2023 State Council Agenda; and**
- 2. Notes all Matters for Noting, Policy Team and Committee Reports and Organisational Reports as listed in the December 2023 State Council Agenda.**

CARRIED

14. Emerging Issues

14.1 Challenges faced by Band 4 Local Governments after LGA amendments

Cr Ian Turton from the Shire of Wandering

- Raised with previous LG Minister, concerns that the current Act amendments are a 'one size fits all' approach
- Lack of support for small band 4 LGs
- Cr Turton met with Tim Fraser from DLGSC and passed on a letter of concern to the new LG Minister
- Hoping to instigate some kind of gathering for small LGs to discuss common challenges
- Likely to progress in early part of next year

President Cr Jackie McBurney expressed her support for Cr Turton's suggestion of the formation of a new group to represent and advocate for small band 4 LGs.

Cr Blight suggested that when the new LG Minister attends in April, the Zone should do a presentation about the challenges of band 4 LGs. Cr Crute suggested that the focus should be broader – focus on the cost shift and impost on regional LGs to do more with the same bucket of money. The cost shifting is becoming more prevalent and is having a greater impact on communities in terms of service delivery.

ACTION:

The WALGA Secretariat will work with the Shire of Wandering to develop a plan and presentation – will report back to the February meeting (first to the Executive Committee, with an invitation to Cr Turton).

14.2 Local Government Election reforms

Mr Stan Scott, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Cuballing

- Insufficient number of candidates, so must hold an extraordinary election
- In the meantime, an EM resigned
- Can't add this new vacancy from the recent election, also can't use the runner up from the recent election to backfill.
- Limitation to the backfilling rules – aren't interacting well with the old provisions
- Shire will now have to hold another Extraordinary election

15. Date, Time, and Place of Next Meetings

The next Central Country Zone meeting will be held on Friday, 16 February commencing at 9.30am. This meeting will be hosted by the Shire of Narrogin.

16. Closure

The Chair thanked all the delegates and CEOs involved in today's elections and meeting.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11:35am.