



GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items

Unconfirmed Minutes

Friday 21 April 2023
Zoom Videoconference, commencing at 8.30am

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GOLDFIELDS VOLUNTARY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (GVROC)

Videoconference meeting of the GVROC Council to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items was held Friday 21 April 2023 starting at 8.30am

AGENDA

1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The purpose of the meeting is to provide advice to the WALGA State Council Representative, Cr Laurene Bonza on the Agenda for the WALGA State Council Meetings to be held on 3 May 2023.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

Cr Ron Chambers of Shire of Esperance and Cr Peter Grundy of Shire of Wiluna both disclosed an impartiality interest to Agenda Item 7.3 - Abandoned shopping trollies, as they own and operate supermarkets.

3. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 Attendance

Cr Mal Cullen (Chair)	President, Shire of Coolgardie
Mr James Trail	CEO, Shire of Coolgardie
Cr Kim Eckert	Councillor, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Mr Andrew Brien	CEO, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Cr Laurene Bonza	President, Shire of Dundas
Mr Peter Fitchat	CEO, Shire of Dundas
Cr Sharon Warner	Councillor, Shire of Dundas
Cr Ian Mickel	President Shire of Esperance
Mr Shane Burge	CEO, Shire of Esperance
Cr Ron Chambers	Councillor, Shire of Esperance
Cr Patrick Hill	President, Shire of Laverton
Mr Phil Marshall	A/CEO, Shire of Laverton
Mr Jim Epis	CEO, Shire of Leonora
Cr Peter Grundy	President, Shire of Wiluna
Mr David Mosel	General Manager of Operations, Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku
Mr Andrew Mann	Executive Officer, GVROC

3.2 Apologies

Cr Tracey Rathbone	Councillor, Shire of Coolgardie
Cr John Bowler	Mayor, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Cr Robert Wedge	Councillor, Shire of Laverton
Cr Peter Craig	President, Shire of Leonora
Cr Paul Warner	Councillor, Shire of Menzies
Cr Jill Dwyer	Councillor, Shire of Menzies
Mr Rob Stewart	A/CEO, Shire of Menzies
Mr Kevin Hannagan	CEO, Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku
Cr Damian McLean	President, Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku
Mr Cary Green	Director Governance & Corporate, Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku
Cr Timothy Carmody	Councillor, Shire of Wiluna
Mr Gary Gaffney	CEO, Shire of Wiluna

3.3 Guests

Nil

3.4 WALGA Representatives

Nick Sloan	CEO
Rachel Armstrong	Senior Policy Officer Emergency Management
Michelle Blackhurst	Regional Road Safety Advisor, WALGA RoadWise Program

3.5 DLGSC Representatives

Nil – see DLGSC report

4. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

4.1 Minutes of a Meeting of GVROC to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items held 17 February 2023

Minutes of the GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council held Friday 17 February 2023 are presented for adoption (**Attachment 1**).

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council held Friday 17 February 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas
Seconded: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton

Carried

4.2 Action Sheet Report

An update on the actions based on the resolutions from the meeting held on 17 February 2023 meeting are presented for noting (**Attachment 2**).

RECOMMENDATION:

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

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr Jim Epis, Shire of Leonora
Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Carried

5. DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SPORT AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES REPORT

From: DLGSC

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

Background:

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

Comment:

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

RECOMMENDATION

The GVROC notes the DLGSC report April 2023 as presented.

RESOLUTION: *Moved: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton*
Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Carried

6. EMERGING ITEMS

From: Chair GVROC

Background:

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

A full copy of the State Council Agenda for the meeting on 1 March 2023 can be found at **Attachment 4**.

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

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

7.1 Best Practice Governance Review – Feedback on Governance Model

WALGA Recommendation

That:

1. **This report summarising feedback from Members on the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report be received; and**
2. **Two sets of constitutional changes be developed for consideration by State Council at the July 2023 meeting to be put to the 2023 Annual General Meeting, that:**
 - a. **Give effect to the revised Model 1, as per the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report; and**
 - b. **Refine the constitution to address inconsistencies and other issues while maintaining the current governance model.**

IN BRIEF:

- State Council commissioned the Best Practice Governance Review with the appointment of a Steering Committee in March 2022.
- The Steering Committee, which met nine times over the course of the project to date and reported back to State Council several times, finalised its [Final Report](#) in February 2023.
- On the basis of member feedback, the Steering Committee recommended Model 1 as the alternate governance model, which would result in the retention of State Council and Zones and the creation of a Board, with the majority of members elected from and by State Council.
- At their March 2023 meeting, State Council resolved to seek feedback from Members on the proposed model.
- To facilitate feedback from Members, the Final Report was distributed and a webinar was held, which was attended by 48 Local Government leaders;
- Feedback was received from 17 Member Local Governments, with nine Member Local Governments expressing support for the proposed Model 1, and eight Member Local Government outlining concerns with the proposed Model 1 or expressing support for the Current Governance Model.
- Concerns with the proposed Model 1 mostly related to concerns around representation at Board level, including the potential for representational imbalances, and the appointment of independent members, including a suggestion that independent members would be more likely to be metropolitan based.
- Next steps for the project are for two sets of constitutional amendments to be presented to State Council at the July 2023 meeting with the view that these amendments would be presented to Members at the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

BACKGROUND:

In [September 2021](#), State Council requested that a report to State Council be prepared recommending amendment to the [WALGA Constitution](#) “to deal with matters related to State Councillors Candidature for State or Federal Elections”. A report was subsequently prepared for consideration by State Council at the [December 2021](#) meeting which proposed a full review of WALGA’s governance model and processes. Several drivers for the proposed review were identified, namely:

- Based on Member feedback expressing dissatisfaction with the governance arrangements, [WALGA’s Corporate Strategy 2020-2025](#) identified the governance model as a key enabler of performance. Accordingly, a review of the governance model and processes was identified as a key strategic initiative.
- The Constitution has been amended eight times since its adoption in 2001. Similarly, the Corporate Governance Charter has been amended 10 times since its adoption in 2004. With amendments layered onto amendments, often in response to specific issues, the Constitution and Charter have become confusing in places.
- The Minister for Local Government’s proposal to remove WALGA from being constituted under the *Local Government Act 1995* could further impact WALGA’s governance arrangements.

An indicative timeline was included in the proposal, with the end point being the consideration of Constitutional amendments by State Council and Members at the 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM). State Council endorsed the proposed Governance Review Project as outlined in the report.

A Steering Committee was appointed by State Council in [March 2022](#) to oversee the Governance Review Project. Membership of the Committee comprised of State Council and Local Government sector representatives. Between May and July 2022, the Committee met four times and undertook significant background work including:

- A review of the governance arrangements of other Local Government Associations in Australia and New Zealand;
- A comparison with five membership-based peak body advocacy organisations; and
- The development of overarching Principles within the categories of *Representative, Responsive and Results Oriented* to guide the development and assessment of a possible alternative governance model for WALGA.

State Council were provided with an update on the progress of the Review and the work of the Committee at an Information Forum in August 2022. Later that month, following another meeting of the Steering Committee, State Council endorsed the Governance Principles and AGM Agenda item proposed by the Committee at a [special meeting](#) on 22 August. When the Principles were considered at the [2022 AGM](#) in October, they received almost universal endorsement by WALGA's Members.

Following the endorsement of the Principles at the AGM, the Steering Committee put forward five model options (including the Current Model) as part of a [Consultation Paper](#) for feedback from WALGA's Members. The Consultation Paper was distributed to all Local Governments in October 2022 with feedback requested by 23 December 2022.

State Council were provided with an update on the Review, along with a copy of the Consultation Paper, at the meeting in [December 2022](#).

A total of 99 Council-endorsed submissions were received, representing 71 percent of WALGA's 139 Members. Concurrently, Ipsos was commissioned to undertake independent quantitative and qualitative research to collect feedback from Local Government Elected Members and Chief Executive Officers on the Governance Review, collect comprehensive feedback on the proposed model options, and determine a preference.

The Steering Committees' [Stage Three Final Report](#) (including the results of the consultation process and Ipsos' research) and recommendation, was presented to State Council at the last meeting on [1 March](#). The Committee's recommended direction was progressing with constitutional amendments to give effect to a slightly revised Model 1. At the March meeting, State Council resolved as follows:

That:

1. *The Best Practice Governance Review Stage 3 Final Report be received;*
2. *The proposed changes to WALGA's governance structure as per the revised Model 1, detailed in the Stage 3 Final Report, be noted;*
3. *Members be engaged on the detail of the model and a Final Report be presented to the May 2023 State Council meeting for consideration;*
4. *Any recommendation to the 2023 AGM include Option 5 as the Current Model and Option 1 as an alternative to the Current Model; and*
5. *Subject to points 1, 2, 3 and 4 above, constitutional changes be developed for consideration by State Council.*

As per point 3, feedback was subsequently sought from Members in relation to the proposed model. The Final Report and a [summary document](#) were published on the WALGA website. Email correspondence was sent to all Local Government CEOs on 14 March, and all Elected Members on 17 March, providing links to the Report and requesting feedback on the proposed model.

Elected Members and senior officers were also invited to attend a webinar on 21 March at which WALGA CEO, Nick Sloan and Executive Director Member Services, Tony Brown provided an overview of Council submissions to the Consultation Paper and outlined the Steering Committee's alternate model for consideration, as detailed in the Final Report. 48 attendees joined the webinar, comprising a range of Elected Members and officers from both metropolitan and country Local Governments. A recording of the webinar was distributed to Members on 28 March via LG Direct and can be viewed [here](#).

Articles about the Final Report, proposed model and webinar were included in LG Direct on 14 March, 21 March and 28 March.

As of 31 March, 17 responses were received from Members, providing feedback on the proposed governance model. The responses included both Council-endorsed feedback as well as feedback from individual Elected Members and CEOs. Overall, there were nine responses in support of revised Model 1, and eight responses against.

COMMENT:

Of the responses from 17 members, five members put forward a new or updated position, three of which were in favour of the proposed Model 1, and two expressed concerns regarding the proposed Model 1.

The Shire of Cuballing had previously ranked Model 3 as its most preferred, followed by the Current Model, with Model 1 being ranked fourth. In its feedback, the Shire noted that “whilst [Model 1] was not our first choice, it seems like a reasonable compromise which preserves the strengths of the existing governance structure and delivers an effective Board to run the business”.

In its original submission, the Shire of West Arthur ranked the Current Model as its first preference, followed by Model 1 as second preference. In this round of feedback, the Shire of West Arthur resolved to support the revised Model 1.

Following a review of the Final Report, the Shire of Plantagenet also submitted in support of Model 1, having not provided a submission during the original consultation period.

The Shire of Upper Gascoyne submitted that given the uncertainties of the proposed Model 1, they could not support it. The Shire of Upper Gascoyne did not provide a submission during the original consultation period.

Similarly, the Shire of Dumbleyung expressed some concerns about the proposed Model 1 and indicated support for retaining the Current Model. The Shire of Dumbleyung made a submission during the previous consultation period but did not provide a ranking of preferences.

In total, nine of the 17 responses expressed support for the revised Model 1, and all of these responses were submitted as Council endorsed positions.

In addition to the three submissions in support detailed above, six responses in support were from Councils that had ranked Model 1 as their first preference, and so represent a reiteration of their previous feedback:

- Town of Claremont (previously submitted in support of both Model 1 and Model 3);
- Shire of Gnowangerup;
- Shire of Koorda;
- City of Mandurah;
- Shire of Shark Bay; and
- Shire of Waroona.

The remaining eight responses indicated a preference for retaining the Current Model and/or not advancing Model 1 as proposed. These responses included feedback from both individual Elected Members and CEOs, as well as some Council endorsed positions.

In addition to the two responses expressing concerns with the proposed Model 1 above, feedback was received from six Local Governments reiterating their Councils’ support for the Current Model, as per the original round of feedback:

- Shire of Cue;
- Shire of Morawa;
- Shire of Murchison;
- Shire of Northampton;
- Shire of Sandstone; and
- Shire of Wagin.

Concerns raised in relation to the proposed Model 1 broadly relate to:

- Representation – that not all Zones will be represented at Board level, and that this could lead to representation imbalances;

- Independent members – including a hypothesis that independent members will be more likely to be based in metropolitan Perth; and
- Questions regarding the rationale for change.

In relation to representation concerns, some respondents suggested that all country representation at Board level could be from the South-West or regional centres, whereas other respondents suggested that country representatives at Board level would be elected to represent regions, and may not be the best people for the role.

In relation to independent members, some respondents suggested that there was a likelihood that independent members would be more likely to be drawn from the metropolitan region. Other respondents reiterated previous submissions suggesting that appointment of independent members should be restricted to only Local Government Elected Members.

The next steps for the project, as per the recommendation, are for two sets of constitutional amendments to be developed and considered by State Council, in accordance with State Council's March 2023 resolution. The first set of constitutional amendments would be to give effect to Model 1, as per the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report. The second set of amendments would be to retain the Current Model and would aim to address inconsistencies and some other issues in the current Constitution.

If both sets of constitutional amendments are supported by State Council with a 75 percent majority in July 2023, the Members will have the opportunity to determine the Association's Governance model at the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

The GVROC note and support the WALGA Recommendation as provided.

RESOLUTION:

**Moved: *Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas*
Seconded: *Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton***

Carried

7.2 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' Child Safe Awareness Policy Template

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council:

- 1. Supports the draft Child Safe Awareness Policy Template being provided to Local Governments to assist with their implementation of Recommendation 6.12 of the Royal Commission (Child Safety Officers in Local Government); and**
- 2. Notes the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' commitment to providing ongoing support and resourcing assistance to Local Governments to assist with implementation of the draft Child Safe Awareness Policy Template and other relevant actions relating to child safeguarding, through the Child Safeguarding Implementation Unit.**

IN BRIEF:

- Since 2020, the State Government has consulted with the Local Government sector in relation to Recommendation 6.12 from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Royal Commission), which recommended that Local Governments should designate Child Safety Officers, with support from governments at the National and State level.
- In 2022, the Department of Communities (DoC) facilitated a series of co-design sessions which involved 35 representatives from Local Government, the Commissioner for Children and Young People (CCYP), WALGA, and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) to develop the Child Safe Awareness Policy Template for Local Government (the Policy) to support implementation of Recommendation 6.12.
- The Policy supports initial action by Local Governments in addressing Recommendation 6.12, and forms part of the broader environment of child safe reforms developed out of the findings of the Royal Commission that will impact Local Government.
- DLGSC is seeking WALGA support for the Policy.
- WALGA considers support for the Policy is appropriate but notes that Local Governments will require ongoing support and resourcing assistance consistent with WALGA's *Advocacy Position 3.10.2 Child Safeguarding*.
- WALGA will continue to advocate to the State Government for the Policy to be considered in the context of a broader implementation plan for all the Royal Commission's recommendations relevant to Local Government.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Child Safe Awareness Policy Template for Local Government

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

This relates to Advocacy Position 3.10.2 Child Safeguarding:

- 1. Local Government supports:*
 - a. the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse 2017, in particular Recommendation 6.12 which can be achieved by Local Government implementing and embedding child safeguarding across its functions with support from Governments at the national, state and territory levels; and*
 - b. the ten National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (Australian Humans Rights Commission).*
- 2. The State Government through an Independent Oversight Body should provide financial, resourcing and capacity building support to Local Governments to implement and embed child safeguarding across its functions, through the provision of:*
 - a. supporting materials such as template policies, procedures and guidelines;*
 - b. consistent key messaging and resources to promote and share in venues and facilities and online;*
 - c. examples of best practice, including case studies;*
 - d. self-assessment tools to assist Local Government;*
 - e. ongoing training and skills development for Local Government staff, including online training options;*

- f. funding for the delivery of the child safeguarding function within smaller, less well resourced (Tier 3 and Tier 4) Local Governments; and*
 - g. expert officers within each region to provide support and guidance to Local Government on child safeguarding.*
- 3. The Local Government sector supports Local Government participation in the State's National Redress Scheme, with full financial coverage by the State.*

BACKGROUND:

Recommendation 6.12 from the Royal Commission, which was accepted in principle by the State Government in 2018, recommends that Local Governments designate child safety officer positions to carry out a series of functions related to promoting and improving child safety in their communities.

Following feedback from Local Governments (Resolution 199.FM/2021), DoC revised the approach for progressing Recommendation 6.12 to embed child safety across Local Government functions instead of designating a specific child safety officer position. The Minister for Child Protection approved the change in approach to implementing Recommendation 6.12.

In 2022, DoC, in collaboration with DLGSC, commenced the development of a child safe awareness policy template for Local Government as an initial step in fulfilling the State Government's obligation to implement Recommendation 6.12. The Policy Template was developed via a co-design process involving 35 Local Government officers, WALGA representatives and the Commissioner for Children and Young People (CCYP).

The Policy commits Local Governments to a number of policy principles which promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people, including upholding the rights of children and young people; that the safety and best interests of children and young people are a primary consideration when making decisions that concern them; and that communities are informed and involved in promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people, including protection from harm.

In line with Royal Commission recommendation 6.12, the Policy requires Local Governments to complete two policy functions:

1. Develop a process to deliver child safe messages at local government venues, facilities, and events; and
2. Connect local community groups, organisations, and stakeholders to child safe resources.

COMMENT:

In February 2023 DLGSC's Child Safeguarding Implementation Unit presented the draft Policy at a number of WALGA Zone meetings and sought Local Government participants for a pilot program to test the implementation of the Policy. Feedback received from zones was generally positive. The pilot is now underway with six Local Governments. DLGSC have advised that they will use the learnings from the pilot to make adapt or improve the Policy as necessary.

The DLGSC Child Safeguarding Implementation Unit established in 2022 is available to support Local Government and other stakeholders with child safeguarding initiatives. The Unit has developed a range of supporting materials including:

- A list of online child safety resources for Local Governments to provide to organisations, stakeholders and community members.
- Referral pathways information to respond to reports and disclosures of abuse.
- Frequently Asked Questions document.
- Guidelines for promoting child safe messages.
- An implementation checklist.

DLGSC is seeking WALGA State Council's support for the Policy Template. WALGA considers that support is appropriate but notes that Local Governments will require ongoing support and resourcing assistance consistent with WALGA's Advocacy Position 3.10.2 Child Safeguarding.

WALGA will continue to advocate for the establishment of an Independent Oversight Body to provide financial, resourcing and capacity building support to Local Governments to implement and embed child safeguarding across its functions.

RECOMMENDATION

GVROC notes and supports the WALGA recommendation as provided.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**
 Seconded: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton

Carried

7.3 **Abandoned Shopping Trolleys Advocacy Position**

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council endorse the following position on Abandoned Shopping Trolleys:

The Local Government Sector advocates for State Government to consult with the Sector and prioritise legislative reforms that require retailers to contain shopping trolleys within shopping centre property boundaries, inclusive of enforcement and modified penalty mechanisms that are a realistic economic imperative for retailers to comply with containment requirements.

IN BRIEF:

- Abandoned trolleys in the public domain, create safety hazards for pedestrian and vehicular traffic and negatively impact public amenity and the natural environment.
- Some retailers prioritise their civic and social responsibilities, however the cost of physically retrieving illegally dumped trolleys is now substantially more than the cost of replacing trolleys.
- The absence of economic or legally enforceable imperative means retailers are increasingly not responding to this issue within reasonable timeframes, if at all.
- In response to community expectations, Local Governments bear the increasing cost burden to remove, impound and eventually dispose of abandoned trolleys.
- The *Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021 (NSW)*, presents an example of how legislation can be used to address issues arising from shopping trolleys.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

State Council's adoption of the recommendation will create a new Advocacy Position.

BACKGROUND:

At the [WALGA 2022 AGM](#) (Item 3.12.1) the following resolution was passed:

3.12.1 Abandoned Shopping Trolleys

That this meeting supports the recent petition to be tabled in the Legislative Council, Parliament of Western Australia, "Removal and Abandonment of Shopping Trolleys 22-0017" calling on the State Government to implement stringent and uniform shopping trolley containment laws for the whole state of Western Australia.

The AGM resolution refers to a petition by the Spearwood Progress Association that was tabled in the WA Parliament's Legislative Council on 22 November 2022:

We are seeking uniform and stringent shopping trolley containment state laws.

1. Investigate the effectiveness of the current local government act in addressing abandoned shopping trolleys
2. Engage with retail stakeholders and shopping centres to investigate current practices
3. Investigate other states/territories and if necessary overseas jurisdictions' current measures/practices to circumvent this issue
4. Recommend the implementation of stringent and uniform shopping trolley containment laws for the whole of Western Australia.

Local Government and community concerns regarding abandoned shopping trolleys have been ongoing over many decades, for example:

- WALGA prepared a discussion paper in 2005, that underpinned development of strategies and establishment of a Working Group.
- The WALGA Working Group included Local Government and retailer representatives and facilitated a number of agreed initiatives to address the issue, before it was disbanded in 2008.
- In 2016, the WALGA Waste and Environment Team prepared a Background Paper titled, "Shopping Trolley Illegal Dumping", which provided recommendations on ways for Local Governments to respond to illegal dumping of shopping trolleys.

- In 2021, the matter was again raised by the East Metropolitan Zone and at that time in the absence of any other initiatives, the Governance and Organisational Policy Team resolved to advise the Zone “*that the best way to address this issue is for each Local Government to work with their retailers*”.

Due to the decreasing cost of replacement, retailers are less likely to reclaim impounded trolleys, resulting in Local Government and community bearing the further cost of disposal, which is considerable given the bulky nature of trolley’s making them difficult to collect, store and dispose of. As an indication of the scale of the problem, metropolitan Local Governments indicate they have at times held several thousand uncollected impounded trolleys.

The [WALGA 2022 AGM](#) resolution above was referred by State Council at its meeting held [7 December 2022](#), to the Governance and Organisational Service Policy Team, which further considered the New South Wales [Public Spaces \(Unattended Property\) Act 2021 \(NSW\)](#), effective November 2022, enacted in response to similar problems associated with abandoned shopping trolleys and other abandoned property.

The NSW legislation provides local governments, other public land managers and police in New South Wales with stronger powers and enforcement mechanisms to deal with unattended or abandoned property, including shopping trolleys, unregistered /abandoned cars, trailers, share bikes and eRidables and stray animals. The law also provides for:

- stronger regulatory and enforcement powers to deal with property left unattended in public
- higher penalties for offences
- greater ability to recover regulatory costs from those responsible
- greater flexibility to temporarily store or care for unattended items and animals
- reduced costs for compliance and storage
- easier way to work with other authorities across jurisdictional boundaries
- better way to deal with stock animals in emergencies

The NSW Government has provided implementation guidance to its Local Government sector, including a period up to 1 May 2023 where warnings, instead of infringements, will be issued.

COMMENT:

Local Governments in WA are limited in the scope of responsibility and enforcement that it can place on retailers through local laws. In the absence of capacity to make suitable local laws, the sector will benefit from the introduction of laws made by State Parliament that will have universal effect in WA.

The New South Wales [Public Spaces \(Unattended Property\) Act 2021](#), provides an example of a robust regulatory framework which could inform development of a Western Australian legislative instrument, that also addresses other forms of unattended property.

RECOMMENDATION

GVROC endorse the WALGA position on Abandoned Shopping Trolleys as presented in its recommendation.

RESOLUTION:

**Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas
Seconded: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton**

Carried

7.4 Speed Management Reform Advocacy Position

WALGA Recommendation

That the Speed Management Advocacy Position as follows, be endorsed:

1. ***That WALGA supports Local Governments wishing to manage travel speeds, including speed limit changes, as a means of achieving the many health, social and environmental benefits for communities.***
2. ***That Main Roads WA (MRWA) retain the overarching authority for speed limit setting/zoning.***
3. ***That Main Roads WA speed zoning policies and processes be reformed so that Local Governments are more influential in the determination of speed limit decreases or increases for local roads.***
 - a. ***This will include applications that are deemed to be approved when the application:***
 - i. ***is based on assessments by competent Local Government practitioners,***
 - ii. ***contains evidence-based identification of the benefits,***
 - iii. ***contains preliminary designs for infrastructure safety upgrades associated with applications to increase speed limits, and***
 - iv. ***includes an engagement strategy for managing community and stakeholder expectations.***
 - b. ***Allows for Main Roads WA to decline an application, within a mutually agreed timeframe, on the basis that it:***
 - i. ***does not meet the above criteria, and***
 - ii. ***provides specific evidence for declining the application.***
4. ***The WALGA seeks to work with Main Roads WA and other stakeholders, to develop a speed management guide for Local Governments.***

IN BRIEF:

- WALGA's existing policy on speed management is narrow in scope and is inadequate for advocating the varying needs of the Local Government sector.
- Speed management is an important tool for Local Governments, for managing the safety performance of local roads and to help create healthy, vibrant, and connected communities.
- Changing speed limits is an important element of speed management but the application process can be difficult and Local Governments currently have limited influence in the determination of speed limit changes on local roads.
- A contemporary advocacy position on speed management will enable WALGA to advocate for reforms that are needed to better reflect the diverse needs of Local Governments and enable effective and responsible management of travel speeds on local roads.

ATTACHMENT:

- [Local Government Principles for Speed Management Reform Discussion Paper](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

WALGA's existing advocacy position in relation to speed stems from consultation with Local Governments undertaken in the early 2000s. The position, first adopted in 2005 and reinforced in 2022, refers only to the State default open road speed limit (see position 5.2.3 in the [Advocacy Positions Manual](#)). This item recommends broadening the existing position.

BACKGROUND:

Speed management is an important tool for Local Governments to prevent road trauma, improve traffic flows, reduce noise and air pollution, encourage active travel, and decrease the climate change impacts of road transport.

The setting of speed limits is a key element of any effective speed management strategy. Changing the speed limit is a relatively quick, cost-effective treatment to manage travel speeds, yet in Western Australia the process can be onerous, challenging and ineffective for Local Governments.

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

WALGA Recommendation

That the State Roads Funds to Local Government Agreement 2023/24 – 2027/28 be endorsed.

IN BRIEF:

- The State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement (Agreement) provides funding for Local Governments to improve and maintain the local road network.
- 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 proposed Agreement is for a five-year term from 2023/24 to 2027/28.
- The overall structure and intent of the Agreement remains largely unchanged from the previous Agreement.
- Commitments to road safety, aboriginal employment and recycled materials have been expanded.
- The Agreement was developed through consultation with Local Government members of the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee (SAC), Main Roads WA and Regional Road Group representatives.

ATTACHMENT:

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

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

In the context of establishing advocacy positions for a new *Local Government Act*, WALGA State Council resolved that the Government returns to Local Government at least 27 percent of motor vehicle licence fee collections. The State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement 2018/19 to 2022/23 was endorsed by State Council in 2018.

BUDEGETARY IMPLICATIONS:

The Agreement fully funds the WALGA Transport and Roads program and approximately 20% of the RoadWise program.

BACKGROUND:

The State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement (Agreement) provides an allocation of funds to Local Governments in Western Australia. The amount of funding is based on a percentage of the vehicle license fee revenue collected by the State Government. This Agreement is the sixth such agreement between State and Local Government in Western Australia. It builds on previous funding and administrative arrangements negotiated in 1995, 2000, 2005, 2011 and in 2018. The funding arrangements provide Local Government with some surety in funding for the term of the Agreement and delegated decision-making responsibility for prioritizing investment in each region.

The Agreement has been developed through consultation with Local Government members of the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee, Main Roads WA and Regional Road Group representatives. The WALGA President and CEO have met with the Minister for Transport; Planning; Ports who has expressed support for the Agreement. All parties acknowledged the value of the Agreement which remains a unique arrangement in Australia.

The Agreement is subject to endorsement by WALGA State Council and State Cabinet.

COMMENT:

The overall structure and intent of the proposed Agreement remains essentially the same as the current Agreement. The following content is highlighted:

1. The Agreement is proposed to run for a five-year period from 2023/24 to 2027/28.
2. The proposed Agreement will provide a 20% allocation of the vehicle license fee revenue collected by the State Government.
3. The Agreement is projected to provide the following annual allocations for Local Government roads and paths:

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

8.1 2023 Policy Priorities

WALGA Recommendation

That the update on WALGA's 2023 Policy Priorities be noted.

IN BRIEF:

- It is important that WALGA focuses on issues of most importance to Local Governments to maximise sector outcomes and avoid diluting our effectiveness in influencing key decision-makers.
- At the March Strategic Forum, the State Council discussed WALGA's policy priorities for 2023. The agreed priorities are now available on the [WALGA website](#).
- Any new issues emerging through Zones or other channels will be considered in the context of these identified priorities.

ATTACHMENT:

- [WALGA 2023 Policy Priorities](#)

BACKGROUND:

While there are a wide range of issues facing Local Governments, it is important that WALGA focuses on those of most importance, to maximise sector outcomes and avoid diluting our effectiveness in influencing key decision-makers.

At the March Strategic Forum, the State Council discussed WALGA's policy priorities for 2023. These priorities seek to pursue a number of important objectives:

- Agile and empowered Local Government;
- Resilient, capable and inclusive communities;
- Climate action;
- Communities that are safe and resilient from natural disasters;
- Sustainable management of the environment;
- Infrastructure to meet the needs of our economy and communities; and
- Thriving economies and local job opportunities.

The agreed priorities are now available on the WALGA website, [here](#).

The identified priorities are issues of state-wide concern to Local Governments and their communities. They range in their stage of development, from emerging issues that require research and the collation of evidence to underpin a robust policy position on behalf of the sector; to those that are long standing positions.

An overarching focus for 2023 will be to ensure that WALGA has relevant, contemporary, and fit for purpose policy positions to support our advocacy across all priority areas.

COMMENT:

WALGA's 2023 Policy Priorities document will assist to:

- Ensure that WALGA Members are informed and can contribute to ongoing policy development;
- Target resources to areas of greatest impact for the Local Government sector collectively; and
- Improve coordination of activities and advocacy strategies across the sector.

It is important to note that new issues may arise, or current issues may evolve significantly during 2023, which may require the priorities to be reprioritised or amended. Any new issues emerging through Zones or other channels will be considered in the context of these identified priorities.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC note the update on WALGA's 2023 Policy Priorities.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: *Mr Jim Epis, Shire of Leonora*

Seconded: *Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas*

Carried

8.2 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review Project

WALGA Recommendation

That the update on the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review Project be noted.

IN BRIEF:

- The LEMA Review is a partnership between the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and WALGA, initiated in response to reports that the current LEMA model is not fit-for-purpose for Local Government.
- The LEMA Review is an opportunity to develop new LEMA approaches, reshape emergency management (EM) procedures and enhance disaster preparedness at the local level.
- WALGA received AWARE funding to lead a consultation with Local Government for the LEMA Review to ensure that the outcomes were sector-led and representative of a diverse range of Local Governments.
- From April to December 2022, WALGA engaged with the sector to identify LEMA strengths, weaknesses, and improvement opportunities in a consultation process. 100 Western Australian Local Governments participated in the consultation process.
- WALGA's [LEMA Review Consultation with Western Australian Local Governments: Project Summary and Recommendations Report](#) summarises the key findings of this consultation process that will inform a LEMA Improvement Plan developed by DFES.
- A final LEMA Improvement Plan, which will include implementation actions, will be submitted to the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) for endorsement in August 2023.

ATTACHMENT:

- [LEMA Review Issues Paper](#)
- [LEMA Review Local Government Survey Findings Report](#)
- [LEMA Review Workshop Consultation Report](#)
- [LEMA Review Consultation with Western Australian Local Governments: Project Summary and Recommendations Report](#)

BACKGROUND:

Under the *Emergency Management Act 2005* (EM Act), Local Governments in Western Australia are required to have Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) in place. LEMA is the collection of all emergency management strategies, plans, agreements and other documents that apply to the Local Government district.

In 2019, the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) identified that there were an increasing number of Local Governments with LEMA overdue for review. Based on WALGA's recommendation, SEMC endorsed a LEMA Review to inform the design of an improved LEMA model. In 2021, DFES was granted National Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) funding to undertake a LEMA Review and WALGA was allocated AWARE funding to lead the consultation with Local Governments to ensure a sector-led approach.

The LEMA Review officially commenced in March 2022 as a partnership initiative between the DFES' SEMC Business Unit and WALGA. From April to December 2022, WALGA engaged with the sector to identify LEMA strengths, weaknesses, and improvement opportunities in a consultation process that included 10 in-depth interviews, 10 interactive workshops and an online survey. 100 Western Australian Local Governments have participated in the consultation.

WALGA's [LEMA Review Consultation with Western Australian Local Governments: Project Summary and Recommendations Report](#) summarises the key findings of this consultation process. A more detailed overview of the consultation process and outcomes are presented in [WALGA's LEMA Review Issues Paper, LEMA Review Survey Report](#) and an independent [LEMA Review Workshop Consultation Report](#).

WALGA's consultation findings indicate that LEMA should empower Local Governments to prepare for and recover from hazards that are likely to impact their communities and business operations now and into the future. To enable this, an improved LEMA model should:

- clearly articulate the roles and responsibilities of Local Governments in emergency management;
- simplify the reporting processes and reduce the administrative burden of maintaining compliance;
- provide a suite of scalable tools and guidance co-designed with the Local Government sector that are accessible through an online system;
- build the emergency management capacity and capability of Local Governments through the provision of targeted training, exercising support, human resources and sustainable funding;
- assist Local Governments to continue to deliver their core business activities and provide public information during an emergency event;
- improve the connectivity of Local Governments' various risk management and hazard planning processes through an integrated approach;
- enable resource sharing and collaboration across the Local Government sector; and
- transfer specific elements of emergency management planning to the district or sub-district level where appropriate, so Local Governments can focus on relevant and contextual emergency management planning at the local level.

COMMENT:

Based on the LEMA Review consultation findings and aligned with WALGA's current [Advocacy Positions](#), WALGA has made the following recommendations to inform the LEMA Improvement Plan currently being developed by DFES:

1. DFES and SEMC approve and secure funding for a three-year LEMA Improvement Project to implement the LEMA Review improvement actions (August 2023 - August 2026);
2. The State Government increase the emergency management resourcing for Local Governments that currently lack emergency management capacity and capability;
3. The State Government develop a simpler and streamlined State Emergency Management Framework with improved communications, guidance and digital tools for Local Governments to assist them to meet their LEMA obligations;
4. SEMC abolish the current one-size-fits-all LEMA model template and develop a suite of LEMA guidance material and practical tools; and
5. The State Government develop new LEMA approaches that focus more on building the emergency management capacity and capability of the sector through the provision of training, exercising support and targeted investment, rather than a compliance focus.

A final LEMA Improvement Plan, which will include implementation actions, will be submitted to the SEMC for endorsement in August 2023.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC note the WALGA update on the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review Project.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton

Seconded: Cr Kim Eckert, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder

Carried

8.3 Submission to the Independent Review of WA's COVID-19 Management and Response

WALGA Recommendation

That the Submission to the Independent Review of Western Australia's COVID-19 Management and Response, endorsed via Flying Minute on 15 March 2023, be noted.

IN BRIEF:

- The State Government has commissioned an independent review of WA's response and management of COVID-19, with submissions due by 16 March 2023.
- The scope of the review is limited to the Western Australian Government's response and management of COVID-19 and specifically excludes Local Government, Commonwealth Government and non-government organisations.
- WALGA's submission is based on the Association's, and Local Governments', experience and interaction with the State Government in responding to COVID-19.
- The submission acknowledges the effectiveness of the State Government's response and focuses on WALGA and Local Governments experience of the State Government's COVID-19 response relating to public sector capacity and capability, intragovernmental communication and cooperation, community support, engagement and communication and the economic and social outcomes.
- Feedback from State Councilors, provided via the Flying Agenda process, was incorporated into the final submission.

ATTACHMENT:

- [Flying Minute Submission to the Independent Review of WA's COVID-19 Management and Response](#)

BACKGROUND:

The State Government announced the Independent Review of WA's COVID-19 Management and Response on 19 January 2023, with submissions to the Review opening from 17 February to 16 March 2023.

The terms of reference for the review were as follows:

- Pandemic planning and preparedness, specifically:
 - Public sector pandemic plans and policies; and
 - Public sector capacity and capability.*
- Government programs and processes to support the health response, specifically:
 - COVID-19 testing, including the Free Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) program, procurement of ventilators, mask distribution, and vaccine rollout; and
 - Digital solutions (e.g. PHOCUS, VaccinateWA, G2G, SafeWA and ServiceWA).*
- Intragovernmental communication and cooperation, specifically:
 - Structures and resource mobilisation across the public sector; and
 - Data collection, sharing and use.*
- Community support, engagement, and communication, specifically:
 - Public communications and campaigns; and
 - Industry and community engagement.*
- The effectiveness of public health levers on health outcomes, specifically:
 - Public health and social measures, including borders; and
 - Testing, tracing, isolation, and quarantine.*

In addition to considering Government's future preparedness, the reviewers will also consider the economic, social and health outcomes of WA's COVID-19 management and response.

The limited scope of the review and the information provided on making submissions makes clear that material outside the terms of reference will not be considered by the Panel.

COMMENT:

WALGA's submission acknowledges the efforts of the WA Government in responding to the unprecedented circumstances presented by COVID-19 and its success in minimising the social, health and economic impacts on the WA population.

The submission provides information on the role played by Local Government and WALGA during COVID-19 and experience of the State Government's COVID-19 response relating to public sector capacity and capability, intragovernmental communication and cooperation, community support, engagement and communication and the economic and social outcomes.

The submission makes recommendations regarding a consultation and engagement with WALGA and the sector in relation to the development of State of Emergency Directions and other COVID-19 response measures and the capacity of State Government to provide advice, respond to queries and provide up to date resources. The submission also makes specific mention of the sector's exclusion from the JobKeeper scheme.

WALGA's submission was informed by feedback from a group of metropolitan and regional Local Government CEO's that met regularly with the WALGA executive to provide advice and insights throughout the pandemic.

The WALGA CEO attended a workshop with the Review Panel and other key stakeholders on Monday, 13 March, which provided another opportunity to discuss the key role that Local Government played in relation to COVID-19 response and management.

State Council considered the submission out of session and feedback provided was incorporated in the final submission, where they related to Local Governments' experience and aligned with the very limited terms of reference for the review.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC note the WALGA Submission to the Independent Review of Western Australia's COVID-19 Management and Response, endorsed via Flying Minute on 15 March 2023.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Peter Grundy, Shire of Wiluna
Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Carried

8.4 Submission to the DWER E-waste to Landfill Ban Consultation Paper

WALGA Recommendation

That the Submission to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's E-Waste to Landfill Ban Consultation paper, endorsed via Flying Minute on 30 March 2023, be noted.

IN BRIEF:

- The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation has released a Consultation Paper on the proposed e-waste to landfill ban.
- The State Government made an election commitment to deliver a state-wide ban by 2024, with the aim of improving management and recycling of e-waste produced by households and businesses across the State.
- WALGA acknowledges the objectives of the ban and its alignment to global, national and local environmental and recovery targets, in particular the [Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030](#). However, the implementation of an e-waste to landfill ban by 2024, in its proposed form, could have significant financial implications for Local Governments, and the communities they service.
- Currently, there are no fully effective product stewardship schemes in place for the materials covered by the bans, which means if the ban is implemented the costs will be borne by Local Government and the community.
- WALGA's submission has been developed with input from Local Governments, and highlights issues raised by the sector regarding e-waste recycling.
- The submission was endorsed by State Council via the Flying Agenda process.

ATTACHMENTS:

- [Flying Minute: Submission on the Consultation Paper – E-waste to landfill ban in Western Australia](#)

BACKGROUND:

The State Government made an election commitment to deliver a state-wide ban on e-waste disposal to landfill by 2024. The State Government has identified funding for collection and processing infrastructure will be provided to support the e-waste recycling industry. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) has released a [E-waste to landfill ban in Western Australian: Consultation Paper](#) which outlines three regulatory options and proposed scope of the material included.

The e-waste to landfill ban will initially focus on electrical, electronic and battery-powered items that have been collected and aggregated purposes of recycling or recovery that:
are covered by effective product stewardship schemes, particularly those accredited schemes under the *Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020*
have established markets or systems for collection, recycling and processing in Western Australia that can grow with increased supply or that have access to national processing infrastructure
contain recoverable base materials of value, for example metals, including precious metals.

Objectives of the ban include:

- supporting increased recovery of value from e-waste materials
- protecting the environment by better management of hazardous products
- expanding the State's e-waste collection, recycling and processing networks.

The ban will apply to e-waste collected for the purposes of recycling. Incidental disposal, such as items placed in a kerbside bin, will not be subject to the ban.

The WA Government has not previously used landfill bans extensively, however they are used in several other jurisdictions. The only existing landfill ban is the tyre exclusion zone, which prohibits the landfilling of tyres in and around the Perth metropolitan area. The unintended consequence of the tyre exclusion zone is that tyres are transported outside this area and landfilled.

In 2006, the then Waste Management Board commissioned work to investigate the environmental, social and economic impacts of potential landfill bans on household packaging, building products and organic waste. The [WALGA Submission](#) made a key recommendation:

Any future investigations into a potential ban to landfill for any material type only be undertaken as a part of a multi-tool approach incorporating Extended Producer Responsibility programmes and other appropriate policies and mechanisms.

The issues relating to Landfill bans have not changed since that time. [WALGA's 2022 submission](#) on the Stewardship for Consumer and Other Electrical and Electronic Products *did not support a landfill ban for e-waste in the absence of a fully effective product stewardship scheme for products which would be subject to the ban.*

There are no fully effective product stewardship schemes in place for these materials, nor are they likely to be when the landfill ban is scheduled for implementation:

- The current National TV and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme costs Local Government up to \$350 per tonne to recycle in-scope products.
- The new national Product Stewardship Scheme, anticipated to cover a wider scope of e-waste, is not scheduled for introduction until mid-2025, with on ground implementation timeframes to be determined.
- [Fluorocycle](#), the voluntary national product stewardship scheme, does not provide any funding for recycling of fluorescent lighting. These materials are collected through the HHW Program, the cost to recycle these products for the 2021-22 financial year, excluding transport, was \$70,568. 22,403 kgs of material was collected, this is 5% of the material collected through the HHW Program.

COMMENT:

WALGA's submission was informed by feedback from metropolitan and regional Local Governments and highlights key issues currently experienced by the sector with e-waste recycling, which are expected to intensify following implementation of the ban and anticipated increase in volume of material.

The submission makes recommendations that engagement efforts are focused on ensuring effective product stewardship schemes are in place for all material included in the bans prior to implementation, or alternative funding schemes are put in place to cover additional costs, rather than these costs being borne by Local Governments and the community.

The DWER Discussion Paper, and associated cost benefit analysis, have not clearly delineated the disproportionate costs between metropolitan and regional collection points, by applying a standard cost across the state which primarily reflects a metropolitan perspective.

In addition, it is recommended to undertake consultation and engagement with regional local Governments to provide an accurate estimation of costs associated with establishing and maintaining e-waste recycling in regional and remote areas.

State Council considered and endorsed the submission out of session via the Flying Agenda process.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC note the WALGA's Submission to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's E-Waste to Landfill Ban Consultation paper, endorsed via Flying Minute on 30 March 2023.

RESOLUTION:

**Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas
Seconded: Cr Peter Grundy, Shire of Wiluna**

Carried

8.5 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC)

WALGA Recommendation

That the resolutions of the 22 February 2023 Municipal Waste Advisory Council meeting be noted.

IN BRIEF:

This item summaries the outcomes of the MWAC meeting held on Wednesday 22 February 2023.

BACKGROUND:

MWAC is seeking that State Council notes the resolutions from its 22 February 2023 meeting, consistent with the delegated authority granted to MWAC to deal with waste management issues.

Copies of Agendas and Minutes are available from WALGA staff, on request.

COMMENT:

Key issues considered at the meeting held on 22 February 2023:

Expansion of the QLD Container Deposit Scheme Submission

The QLD Department of Environment and Science conducted consultation on expanding the scope of eligible containers included their Container Refund Scheme – Containers for Change.

A Submission has been developed which focuses on supporting the expansion of the Scheme to cover a range of additional products including wine and spirits, fruit and vegetable juice, plain and flavoured milk and milk alternatives, concentrated fruit juice, cordial, flavoured alcoholic beverages with a wine base and registered health tonics.

Given the review of the scope of the WA Container Deposit Scheme it is important that there is national alignment on material types covered by the various Schemes. A Submission was provided to the NSW EPA in December 2022 in response to their Scheme review. WALGA has engaged with the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) to ensure a consistent approach.

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MOTION

That the Municipal Waste Advisory Council endorse the Submission on *Discussion Paper: Proposal to expand the scope of eligible container in Queensland's Container Refund Scheme – Containers for Change.*

Moved: Cr Johnson Seconded: Cr Price

CARRIED

WALGA Policy Statement Consultation and Communications – Review

The [Consultation and Communication Policy Statement](#) identifies the roles and responsibilities of the Association, including key principles of engagement, stakeholders and the appropriate level of and methods for Consultation and Communication, in relation to waste management. Following discussion, it was determined by MWAC that this Policy Statement was no longer be needed. It is not an advocacy position but rather identifies how consultation will occur for waste management issues, therefore it can be captured as an internal process, rather than a Policy Statement.

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MOTION

That the Municipal Waste Advisory Council withdraw the *Consultation and Communication Policy Statement* and continue to utilise the document as a reference point for engagement purposes.

Moved: Cr Abetz Seconded: Cr Price

CARRIED

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC note the resolutions of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council from its 22 February 2023 meeting.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: *Cr Peter Grundy, Shire of Wiluna***
 Seconded: *Cr Kim Eckert, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder*

Carried

8.6 **March 2023 Economic Briefing**

WALGA Recommendation

That the update on the March 2023 Economic Briefing be noted.

IN BRIEF:

- WALGA recently released the March 2023 Economic Briefing.
- This quarter's edition is the most important issue of the year, as it contains information and forecasts to assist Local Governments to prepare their Budgets for the next financial year.
- A new campaign was undertaken this quarter to raise awareness of the publication, which has seen subscription rates increase by almost 200%.

ATTACHMENTS:

- [March 2023 Economic Briefing](#)
- [Economic Briefing Video](#)

BACKGROUND:

WALGA recently released the March 2023 Economic Briefing. WALGA's Economics team have analysed data from a variety of sources, such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Reserve Bank, and WA Treasury to produce a report specifically tailored for Local Governments.

It also includes the Local Government Cost Index (LGCI), an index created by WALGA to provide Members a better understanding of price trends specifically related to Local Government services and infrastructure.

This quarter's snapshot comes at a crucial time, as Local Governments prepare budgets for the next financial year amid a backdrop of high costs and labour constraints.

A new campaign was undertaken this quarter to raise awareness of the publication, which has seen subscription rates increase by almost 200%.

Highlights from the report include:

- Positive signs that the LGCI may have peaked after easing for the second consecutive quarter in December 2022. The LGCI is expected to grow 4.5% through 2022-23, and 2.9% in 2023-24.
- Some relief from the recent increases in construction costs. However, they are not expected to return to their 2020 levels, but to grow at a more moderate pace.
- Wages are tipped to increase following several years of modest growth.
- The labour market remains tight, which will pose challenges for the sector to attract and retain staff and will add to wage pressures.

COMMENT:

Understanding what's happening in the economy is important to help Local Governments to ensure that their budgets are build off a set of reasonable assumptions. With the cost of living rising at its highest rate in 30 years, Local Governments are setting their budgets for the next financial year at a challenging time for the community. Local Government leaders will need to weigh up the ability to deliver community services and infrastructure against imposing an additional burden on the community.

In such an uncertain and rapidly changing environment, Local Governments should prepare for multiple scenarios and consider a range of options to deliver their communities priorities in coming years.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC note the update on the March 2023 Economic Briefing.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas
Seconded: Cr Kim Eckert, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder

Carried

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

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

Policy Teams

9.1 Environment and Waste Policy Team Report

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

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

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the Environment and Waste Policy Team at its meeting held on 1 March 2023.

1. Matters for State Council Decision

1.1 Draft Guideline Minimising noise impact from outdoor community basketball facilities

The Policy Team noted the Minister's withdrawal of the Draft Guideline Minimising noise impact from outdoor community basketball facilities. The Policy Team identified that the issues relating to basketball court noise are symptomatic of far broader considerations. These include provision of public open space in the planning system, the complexity of balancing infill and the need for recreation facilities, and noise issues. The Policy Team agreed that a whole of government approach was needed to address these issues and that there are a range of possible policy and program interventions which could assist Local Governments in balancing these considerations.

1.2 South East Metropolitan Zone – Advocacy on Environmental Issues

The Policy Team discussed the complexities of the issue that the South East Metropolitan Zone had raised in relation to the impact on macropods from urban development. The Policy Team noted a clear role for the State Government in communicating and regulating this issue.

WALGA had strongly advocated for the Perth and Peel Strategic Assessment to be completed as this would have assisted in providing an overall, landscape scale conservation outcome on the Swan Coastal Plain but that the State Government announced that it would instead pursue regional planning as part of the State Native Vegetation policy.

WALGA will continue to engage with the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, on the issue of kangaroo management, and Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, on the implementation of WA's Native Vegetation Policy, and ensure the concerns of the South East Metropolitan Zone are brought to the Departments' attention. This item was also considered by the People and Place Policy Team.

2. Matters for State Council Noting

The following updates were noted:

- The Urban Forest Conference was held on 17 February at Curtin University.
 - There were more than 340 attendees from Local Government, State Government, industry, community organisations and academia.
 - Speakers included: the Minister for Environment and Climate Action Hon Reece Whitby MLA; Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC, Member for South Metropolitan; Karen Sweeney, City of Sydney Manager of Urban Forest; representatives from Local Government; and high-profile horticultural experts Professor Josh Byrne and Sabrina Hahn.
 - The event was a key tool in WALGA's advocacy to State Government for \$20 million to plant 60,000 trees, a key initiative in WALGA's State Budget Submission.

The GOS Policy Team provides recommendations regarding six WALGA Advocacy Positions for State Council's decision. Advocacy Positions may be reviewed in the WALGA [Advocacy Position Manual](#).

1.1 Advocacy Position 2.1.14 Financial Assistance Grants

Policy Team Comment: Financial Assistance Grants remain a key issue for Local Governments. The issue is primarily being pursued via ALGA, whose position is for FA Grants to be restored to at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue via a phased approach. WALGA's current position is not inconsistent with ALGA's, and may be more politically palatable to the extent that it seeks an increase as opposed to identifying a quantum for increase.

Recommendation: State Council retain Advocacy Position 2.1.14 Financial Assistance Grants

1.2 Advocacy Position 2.4.4 Remote Area Tax

Policy Team Comment: This position was developed in response to an Inquiry by the Productivity Commission. While the final report was handed down, the Government at the time decided not to act on its recommendations and it is not clear that this is a priority for the current government. The issue remains relevant to WALGA members and has not been addressed by State Government.

Recommendation: State Council retain Advocacy Position 2.4.4 Remote Area Tax

1.3 Advocacy Position 2.5.14 Tender Threshold

Policy Team Comment: This Advocacy Position has been superseded by WALGA's more recently adopted advocacy Position 2.5.46 'Financial Management and Procurement', that includes the following:

"Supports the alignment of Local Government procurement thresholds, rules and policies with the State Government."

Alignment of procurement practices with State Government includes the tender threshold provisions. [State Government Procurement Rules](#) (dated 1 June 2021) establish a public tender threshold for State Government of \$250,000 which is consistent with the threshold now applied to Local Government.

Recommendation: State Council delete Advocacy Position 2.5.14 Tender Threshold

1.4 Advocacy Position 2.5.26 Simple and Absolute Majority

Policy Team Comment: This advocacy position was in response to the Department of Local Government's survey of Local Government views as to when an absolute majority decision should be required. Survey outcomes were addressed through the 2019 Local Government Act amendment that removed "special majority" provisions.

Recommendation: State Council delete Advocacy Position 2.5.26 Simple and Absolute Majority

1.5 Advocacy Position 2.5.21 Conduct of Postal Elections

Policy Team Comment: This advocacy is based on the principle that the WAEC should not retain a monopoly on the conduct of elections, and that choice will create a market with potential to drive down cost.

Recommendation: State Council retain Advocacy Position 2.5.21 Conduct of Postal Elections

1.6 Advocacy Position 2.5.39 Exemption from AASB124

Policy Team Comment: The advocacy position seeks an exemption from AASB124 on the basis that Council Member declare financial interests in Primary and Annual Returns.

Recommendation: State Council retain Advocacy Position 2.5.39 Exemption from AASB124

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

10.1 Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio

10.2 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio

10.3 Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio

10.4 Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio

GVROC COMMENT:

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

RESOLUTION: *Moved: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton*
 Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Carried

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

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

11.1 President's Report

WALGA Recommendation

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

11.2 CEO's Report

WALGA Recommendation

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

11.3 Ex Officio Reports

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

RECOMMENDATION:

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

RESOLUTION: *Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas*
 Seconded: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton

Carried

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

12.1 Complete Status Report on State Council Resolutions - To the May 2023 State Council Meeting

GVROC COMMENT:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

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

RESOLUTION:

Moved: *Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas*
Seconded: *Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton*

Carried

13. LATE ITEMS as notified, introduced by decision of the Meeting

GVROC Chair called Motion to accept late Item:

MOTION RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**
 Seconded: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton

13.1 Electoral Boundary Changes in Regional Western Australia

IN BRIEF:

- Every two years after a State Election, the Electoral Distribution Commissioners are appointed to undertake a boundary redistribution.
- The boundary redistribution takes a snapshot of the average enrolment for all 59 seats in the State Parliament as at the mid-point between elections – this year that was 13 March 2023.
- The Snapshot showed the average to be 30,432 voters per seat.
- Within the rules of the boundary redistribution, all 59 seats are allowed to be within 10 percent above or below the average enrolment.
- Due to electoral reform legislation introduced by the McGowan Labor Government there will be a significant reduction to regional representation in the Parliament after 2025 State Election.
- Currently 16 Regional seats in Parliament.
- There are three opportunities during the review where the Electoral Distribution Commissioners will invite the public to contribute. You can make a submission at any time during the three phases. See the [2023 Distribution Timeline](#) for all key dates.

ATTACHMENT:

- Letter from Leader of the Opposition – Shane Love MLA to Shire of Dundas President, Laurene Bonza regarding Electoral Boundary Changes in Regional Western Australia.

BACKGROUND:

The letter attached from the Leader of the Opposition – Shane Love MLA to Shire of Dundas President, Laurene Bonza regarding Electoral Boundary Changes in Regional Western Australia, highlights the concerns regarding the dilution of the regional representation within the State Parliament and the request for regional local governments to make submissions to the Electoral Distribution Commissioners to ensure that the current regional seats are retained in Parliament.

The main concerns are that these regional seats currently represent large areas with distinct issues, and they are underrepresented as it is in State Parliament. This results in a lot of problems that continually remain unaddressed in regional areas by State Government who have a primary focus on the metropolitan area as this is where the majority of votes and seats are held.

Some of the current issues impacting our region that are not being focussed on by State Government will continue to get worse if redistribution reduces the current representation, including

- Drought
- Biosecurity
- Housing
- Dept Communities (Child Protection being one of the concerns as this is being considered to be a Local Government responsibility)
- Regional and Remote Education
- Mining Impacts
- Tourism
- Great Western Woodlands
- Bushfire Risk and Cost
- Main Road WA managed Highways
- Coastal and Fishing reforms
- Industry Diversity

The current electoral boundaries can be found at this link:

[Current Boundaries](#) | [Electoral Boundaries WA](#)

Details around the Electoral Boundary Review process and making a submission can be found at the following links:

[The Electoral Boundary Review | Electoral Boundaries WA](#)
[Making a Submission | Electoral Boundaries WA](#)

Opportunities to make a submission

There are three opportunities during the review where the Electoral Distribution Commissioners will invite the public to contribute. You can make a submission at any time during the three phases. See the [2023 Distribution Timeline](#) for all key dates.

1. Suggestions are invited (from 1 April 2023, closing 1 May, 2023 at 5.00 pm.)

Suggestions can be about where you think a district boundary should be, or what the districts should be called. You can focus on your current district or on any electorate about which you are familiar.

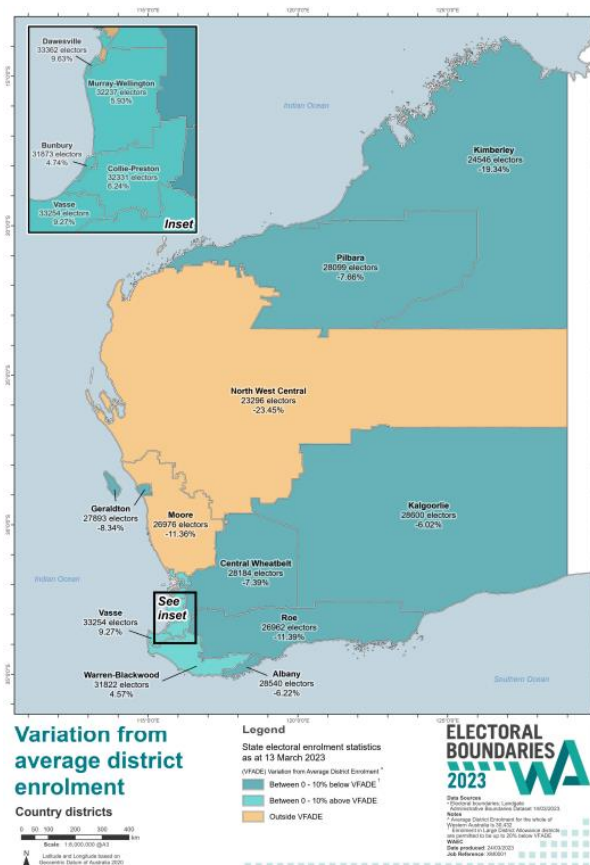
2. Comments on suggestions are invited (after the close of suggestions, 1 May, 2023 at 5.00 pm until 15 May 2023 at 5.00 pm)

Once all suggestions have been submitted, they will be published online. You then have 14 days to submit a comment in response, or to contribute, to any suggestions. You do not have to have previously made a suggestion to be eligible to comment.

3. Objections to the proposed boundaries are invited once the proposed boundaries have been published (on a date to be confirmed between 10 July and 28 July 2023), for the next 30 days)

Once the proposed boundaries have been published, you have 30 days to submit an objection about the proposals if you choose. You do not have to have previously made a submission to be eligible to make an objection or comment.

[Publications and Resources | Electoral Boundaries WA](#)



COMMENT:

The Shire of Dundas President, Laurene Bonza and CEO, Peter Fitchat have requested consideration of the letter received from Shane Love MLA and the information provided in this item and request the GVROC to support putting a regional submission to the Electoral Distribution Commissioners in line with the 2023 Distribution Timeline dates outlined above.

RECOMMENDATION:

That GVROC:

1. Encourage each LGA to prepare their own submission to the Electoral Distribution Commissioners in line with the 2023 Distribution Timeline dates outlined above.
2. Support also making a GVROC regional submission to the Electoral Distribution Commissioners in line with the 2023 Distribution Timeline dates outlined above.
3. Request that the GVROC CEOs provide a copy of their submission to the GVROC Executive Officer by 30 April 2023 for inclusion in the regional submission and approval of the GVROC Chair before submitting.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: *Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas*
Seconded: *Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton*

Carried

14. FUTURE MEETINGS

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

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

- 26 May 2023 in Leonora (to be hosted by the Shire of Leonora)
- 28 July 2023 in Coolgardie (to be hosted by the Shire of Coolgardie)
- Early October 2023 (date and venue to be Confirmed aligned with WALGA AGM in Perth)
- 24 November 2023 in Menzies (hosted by the Shire of Menzies)

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

- 3 May 2023 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **21 April 2023**
- 5 July 2023 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **23 June 2023**
- 7-8 September 2023 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **25 August 2023**
- 6 December 2023 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **17 November 2023**

15. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9:45am.