

Great Southern Country Zone

Minutes

Friday, 25 August 2023

Commenced at 10am

City of Albany

Civic Room

102 North Road

YAKAMIA

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Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework



This tool has been developed to assist the Great Southern Zone to determine the relative priority of a particular issue relative to existing policy and advocacy priorities.

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

Impact on Local Government Sector Impact on Local Government sector without intervention	High	Medium	Low
Reach Number of member Local Governments affected	Sector-wide	Significant (multiple regions, Zones, or bands)	Few
Influence Capacity to influence decision makers	High	Medium	Low
Principles Alignment to core principles such as autonomy, funding, general competence	Strong	Partial	Peripheral
Clarity Policy change needed is clear and well-defined	Clear	Partial	Unclear
Decision-maker support Level of support among decision-makers (political and administrative)	High	Medium	Low
Public support Level of support among the public or other stakeholders	High	Medium	Low
Positive consequences for WALGA Zone Prospect of positive consequences for WALGA zone. E.g. enhanced standing among members or leverage for other issues.	High	Medium	Low
Negative consequences for WALGA Zone Prospect of negative consequences for WALGA zone for not undertaking the advocacy effort. E.g. diminished standing among members or other stakeholders.	High	Medium	Low
Partnerships Potential for partnerships with other stakeholders	Yes (3+)	Possibly (1-2)	No (0)

Using this tool:

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

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

Endorsed by GSCZ Feb 2022

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

Zone Chair, President Chris Pavlovich declared the meeting open at 10.00am and Councillor Sandie Smith, City of Albany, welcomed the Zone to the meeting at the City of Albany.

1.1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTY

Zone Chair, President Chris Pavlovich, provided the Acknowledgement of Country:

We, the Great Southern Country Zone of WALGA acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future.

2. ATTENDANCE

ZONE MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES:

City of Albany	Cr Matt Benson-Lidholm Deputy Mayor, Cr Sandie Smith Cr Greg Stocks (Observer) CEO Andrew Sharpe (non-voting)
Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup	President, Cr Michael White Deputy President, Cr Doug Barritt CEO Anthony Middleton (non-voting)
Shire of Cranbrook	President, Cr Philip Horrocks CEO Linda Gray (non-voting)
Shire of Denmark	Cr Donna Carman A/CEO David King (non-voting)
Shire of Gnowangerup	President, Cr Fiona Gaze CEO David Nicholson (non-voting)
Shire of Jerramungup	Deputy President, Cr Julie Leenhouders CEO Martin Cuthbert (non-voting)
Shire of Katanning	President, Cr Liz Guidera (Zone Deputy Chair) Deputy President, Cr John Goodheart CEO Julian Murphy (non-voting)
Shire of Kent	President, Cr Scott Crosby
Shire of Kojonup	Cr Alan Egerton-Warburton Deputy President, Cr Paul Walker (Observer) CEO Grant Thompson (non-voting)
Shire of Plantagenet	President, Cr Chris Pavlovich (Zone Chair) Deputy President, Cr Jon Oldfield

A/CEO Gary Clarke (non-voting)

Shire of Woodanilling

President, Cr Stephen Jefferies
Cr Dale Douglas (deputy member)
CEO Kelly Bartley (non-voting)

GUESTS

Agencies

Great Southern Development Commission	Lee Sounness, Director Regional Development
South Coast Natural Resource Management	Cr John Oldfield, Zone Delegate, Shire of Plantagenet
Local Government Agricultural Freight Group	Cr Russel Thomson, Zone Delegate, Shire of Woodanilling
National Emergency Management Agency	Annette Balmer, Coordination and Planning Officer
Department of Premier and Cabinet	Simon Stokes, Policy Advisor
Office of Rick Wilson MP	Chris Thomson, Media Advisor

Members of Parliament

Hon. Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor
Hon. Dr Tony Buti, MLA, Minister for Education, Aboriginal Affairs, Citizenship and Multicultural Interests

Guest Speakers

Nikolai Emery, Engagement and Transition Manager,
Department of Education

WALGA

WALGA, Roadwise

Lyn Fogg, Zone Executive Officer
Suise Moir, Policy Manager Resilient Communities
Vivienne Gardiner, Regional Road Safety Adviser

2.1. APOLOGIES

Members:

City of Albany, Mayor Dennis Wellington
City of Albany, Cr Paul Terry
Shire of Cranbrook, Deputy President, Cr George Pollard
Shire of Denmark, Cr Janine Phillips
Shire of Gnowangerup, Deputy President, Cr Greg Stewart
Shire of Jerramungup, Cr Andrew Price
Shire of Kent, Deputy President, Cr Kate Johnston
Shire of Kent, A/CEO Peter Clarke
Shire of Kojonup, Cr Kevin Gale
Shire of Woodanilling, Deputy President, Cr Russel Thomson

Guests:

Hon. Shelley Payne MLC
Hon Peter Rundle MLA
Great Southern Development Commission
Jarrad Gardner, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Regional Development Australia – Great Southern WA Inc
Simon Lyas, Director Regional Development
Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries
Mel Eastough, Regional Manager

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

NIL.

4. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS

4.1. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

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

4.1.1. Hon. Dr Tony Buti, MLA, Minister for Education, Aboriginal Affairs, Citizenship and Multicultural Interests

Minister Buti addressed the meeting outlining a number of State Government initiatives relevant to the Great Southern region, including:

- Naplan testing results.
- State Government budget increased for first time above \$600M.
- Federal / State Government education funding reforms.
- Red-tape reduction for teachers.
- Full-service schools initiative – inclusive of allied professional services.
- Teacher shortages worldwide – 41% decrease in teacher graduates.

4.1.2. Hon. Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor

Hon. Rick Wilson address the meeting outlining a number of Federal Government initiatives relevant to the Great Southern region, including:

- Pharmacy dispensing funding changes.
- Live export panel report – soon to be handed down.
- Voice Referendum.

4.2. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATION

Details of guest speakers approved by the Zone for future meetings

Zone Meeting Dates 2023		Speaker Confirmed
24 November	Broomehill -Tambellup	

****10.38am** Minister Buti and Simon Stokes departed the meeting, to attend a prior appointment.

4.2.1. Education Department – Nikolai Emery, Engagement and Transition Manager

The presentation was provided by Education Department representative, Nikolai Emery, Engagement and Transition Manager and addressed the following topics as requested by the Zone:

- Secondary education initiatives
- Alternative pathways
- Regional delivery models offered or planned for delivery in the Great Southern Region (that contribute to retaining children at home rather than sent to boarding schools)
- Programs that retain children at risk and Indigenous children in education.

ACTION ITEM: A copy of the presentation will be circulated to Zone Members under separate cover.

4.2.2. Guest Speaker Proposals

Lyn Fogg, Zone Executive Officer

The Zone has not yet identified a speaker for the November 2023 meeting to be hosted by the Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup and the Zone may wish to identify a list of potential guest speakers for early 2024 meetings.

The following suggestions are provided to ‘start the conversation’ for the Zone’s consideration:

Proposed Guest Speaker	Proposed Topic
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Mitigation Activity Fund program
City of Albany	Albany 2026 Bicentennial – Planning for Regional Economic Benefit
Volunteering WA	Service and support provided by this organisation that may assist Local Governments.
WA Country Health Service – Great Southern	Health service planning to address service gaps
???	

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Scott Crosby
Seconded: Cr Matt Benson-Lidholm

That the Great Southern Country Zone approves the following options for guest speakers at future Zone meetings:

Proposed Guest Speaker	Proposed Topic
1. Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Mitigation Activity Fund program and consolidation of emergency services legislation (request Murray Carter, Executive Director Rural Fire Division)
2. Rural Health West	Regional service delivery programs
3. WA Salaries and Allowances Tribunal	Explain methodology for determining regional allowances – concerns regional CEO allowances are impacting CEO recruitment and retention
4. Department of Mines and Industry Regulation	Exploration licenses / regulation and procedures
5. City of Albany	Albany 2026 Bicentennial – Planning for Regional Economic Benefit

CARRIED

5. AGENCY REPORTS

5.1. GREAT SOUTHERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (GSDC)

Report by Lee Sounness, Director Regional Development

Mr Sounness provided an update, including:

- Retirement of Commission Chair Bruce Manning.
- Appointment of new Commission Chair, Ricki Burgess.
- Bloom Great Southern event – September – October.
- International trade activities.

NOTED.

5.2. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA GREAT SOUTHERN WA INC (RDA-GS)

Report by Simon Lyas, Chief Executive Officer

Nil.

5.3. SOUTH COAST NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (SCNRM)

Report by Cr John Oldfield, Zone Delegate, Shire of Plantagenet

Nil.

5.4. GREAT SOUTHERN HUMAN SERVICES FORUM

Report by Michaela Crosby, Shire of Kent

Priorities for 2023 include; mental health, housing, family and domestic violence, South West Native Title Settlement and advocacy.

Homelessness Week was held on the 7-13 August and Albany's Big Sleep Out is to be held on 26 August 2023.

The Great Southern District Leadership Group has re-formed, with approved Project Officer support. In light of these changes, two options on the future of the group were presented at the last Human Resources Forum meeting.

1. Continue with existing structure, District Leadership Group (Strategic Level), Human Services Forum (Operational) with working groups as required or
2. Update structure to include District Leadership Group (Strategic Level), with targeted working groups on agreed areas of focus.

Feedback at the meeting was in favour of Option 2, provided there is suitable representation from Commonwealth, State, Local Government and Non-Government at the District Leadership Group level, and clear communication was evident between the District Leadership Group and working groups.

NOTED.

5.5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURAL FREIGHT GROUP (LGAFG)

Report by Cr Russel Thomson, Zone Delegate Shire of Woodanilling | Lyn Fogg, Zone Executive Officer

Attachment No. 1 [Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Terms of Reference](#)

BACKGROUND

The Zone meeting held 23 June 2023, approved payment of the Zone's 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 contributions to the administration of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group. During discussion of this item, Zone members indicated that a further report be provided to enable consideration of the benefits of remaining as a participant in this Group.

COMMENT

The LG Agricultural Freight Group is investigating the option for the Group to go into 'recess' on the basis that:

- There are several other groups and processes that now address the Group's Terms of Reference objectives.
- Placing the Group into 'recess', rather than disbanding it, means the group may be reactivated if required in future.

The Avon-Midland Country Zone Executive Officer, Robert Dew, who provides secretariat services to the LGAFG, advises that the Chair will circulate information to the Zone's LGAFG delegate and the Group is proposing to meet in September to formally consider going into 'recess'.

NOTED.

5.6. GREAT SOUTHERN REGIONAL ROADS GROUP

Report by Cr Len Handasyde, Shire of Plantagenet

WALGAGS Meeting 25-08-2023

Accruals and acquittal figures for 22-23.

The basic and uncorrected initial figures show accruals, where the work was completed but awaiting paperwork completion, to stand at around \$1.6 million.

Carryover figures where the work wasn't completed sits at around \$1.67 million. MRWA Staff will further confirm and verify these figures shortly. This is fairly close to last years figures and while I don't have the official breakdown of each individual program the figures are high enough.

Planning for works will be well underway by Shires as we lead into the drier times of the year. If a project cannot be completed by your Shire, the earlier the RRG knows about it the easier it is for money to be potentially transferred to another project. Please keep this in mind as we progress through the year.

The work continues on the Great Southern Secondary Freight Network (GSSFN) advocacy document with data being requested from Shires by MRWA staff. Where there is a problem with supplying that data, MRWA Staff are more than willing to assist. Simon Fretton has been more than helpful. There has also been collaboration with the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network and this information will assist us to advocate the final position more effectively.

A process is being developed for projects to be considered for the initial tranche of monies that is earmarked for the GSSFN. Under an independent review this money has been held over for this financial year as it was scrutinized further by the Federal Govt to ensure that it was going to be spent well. This is not necessarily a bad thing as it will give more time for the process for these GSSFN projects to be developed well. The projects will then be submitted for consideration for the next financial year. This will mean that the final year for acquittals of GSSFN money will be June 2026.

There is no doubt that we will continue to see price rise impacts on program delivery against projects and budgets agreed to 18 months ago. There will be further thought around the low-cost shoulder sealing program success or otherwise. There is talk around the nil submission of any black spot projects recently and the reasons why and how to address these issues.

I look forward to working with you all into the future as we see projects continuing to be delivered across the network and the GSSFN advocacy document developed fully. This will assist us greatly as we will have figures and data to clearly advocate a position on. The GSSFN Projects will also improve the network and will be a solid start to the future upgrade work that is sorely needed to future proof our roads.

NOTED.

5.7. WALGA ROADWISE

Report by Vivienne Gardner, RoadWise Road Safety Advisor

Ms Gardner provided a verbal update, including:

- Roadwise Program is transitioning to a service model – meeting with individual Local Government CEOs to facilitate engagement and participation.
- Unsealed Road training course by Australian Road Research Board in November – Local Governments encouraged to register relevant officers.
- Updated road data now available in RAAMS.

NOTED.

5.8. DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SPORT AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES (DLGSC)

Report by Mel Eastough, Regional Manager

Attachment No. 2 [DLGSC Update July 2023](#)

NOTED.

5.9. NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA)

Report by Annette Balmer, Coordination and Planning Officer

Nil.

6. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: President, Cr Scott Crosby
Seconded: Deputy President, Cr Julie Leenhouders

That the minutes of the Great Southern Country Zone meeting held on 23 June 2023, as previously circulated, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

6.1. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil.

6.2. ZONE RESOLUTION STATUS REPORT

By Lyn Fogg, Zone Executive Officer

Attachment No. 3 [Great Southern Country Zone Status Report August 2023](#)

The Status Report provides an update on actions taken in response to Zone resolutions at previous meetings. Zone Members are asked to review responses.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President, Cr Liz Guidera
Seconded: Deputy President, Cr Julie Leenhouders

That the Great Southern Country Zone NOTES the Status Report dated August 2023, as detailed in Attachment No.3.

CARRIED

6.2.1. Zone Action Items Report

By Lyn Fogg, Zone Executive Officer

Attachment No. 4 [Great Southern Country Zone Action Items Report August 2023](#)

Action Items identified as 'Completed' in this Report will be removed from future Action Items Reports, unless otherwise requested by the Zone.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President, Cr Scott Crosby
Seconded: President, Cr Liz Guidera

That the Great Southern Country Zone NOTES the Action Items Report dated August 2023, as detailed in Attachment No.4.

CARRIED

7. ZONE BUSINESS

7.1. ZONE REPORTS

7.1.1. Zone Financial Report – August 2023

By Rick Murray, WALGA Chief Financial Officer

All amounts are excluding GST unless otherwise specified.

Financial statements for the zone have been prepared on an accrual basis and show the financial performance and financial position for the year ended 30 June 2023. These financials will be submitted for audit.

Income includes contributions to fund the DAMA project, totalling \$70,000 (ex.GST), which have been invoiced and collected. Project income recognised has been aligned to project costs of \$41,200. The resulting surplus project funds of \$28,800 have been recognised in the balance sheet as Unused Project Funds liability.

The overall result for the year consists of a deficit of \$1,063 compared to the budgeted deficit of \$854. The key variance is the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG) costs for the previous two years.

Table 1 Statement of Income and Expenditure – period ended 30 June 2023

	Note	Actual \$	Budget \$
Income			
Subscriptions	2	6,050	6,050
Project Income	3	41,200	70,000
Total Income		47,250	76,050
Expenses			
Bank Fees		120	120
Meeting Costs		6,051	6,784
LGAFG cost share	4	941	
Project Expenses	3	41,200	70,000
Total Expenses		48,313	76,904
Surplus/(Deficit)		-\$1,063	-\$854
Notes			
1. Budget approved 25 November 2022 (Item 7.1.2)			
2. Subscriptions excl GST 12@ \$550 each since received in full.			
3. Project Income limited to expenses - balance of income is held in creditors pending refund or application to further project costs.			
4. LGAFG (Local Govt Agricultural Freight Group) costs relate to the past two years.			

Table 2: Balance Sheet presenting the Zone's financial position as at 30 June 2023

Assets	\$
Bank	31,528
Total Assets	31,528
Liabilities	
Creditors (note 1)	1,991
Unused Project Funds	28,800
Total Liabilities	30,791
Net Assets	\$ 737
Total Equity	\$ 737

Note 1: Creditors	
Local Govt Agricultural Freight Group - (2 years)	941
June Catering to be reimbursed	1,050
Total	1,991

The Zone 2023/2024 Budget adopted at the April 2023 meeting is provided below:

2023/24 Budget	\$
INCOME	
Zone Member Subscriptions @ \$600	6,600
Total Income	\$6,600
EXPENDITURE	
Catering 5 meetings @ \$1000 per meeting <i>(Providing morning tea and light lunch only)</i>	5,000
Bank Fees	150
Total Expenditure	\$5,150
SURPLUS	\$1,450

The Zone surplus (\$737) at the conclusion of the 2022/2023 financial year, in combination with the budgeted surplus of \$1,450, is considered to provide sufficient financial buffer. Therefore, the Zone subscription invoices will be issued in September.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Deputy President, Cr Julie Leenhouders
Seconded: Deputy Mayor, Cr Sandie Smith

That the Great Southern Country Zone RECEIVES the Zone Financial Report for August 2023.

CARRIED

7.1.2. Zone Australian Taxation Office Authorised Contact

By Rick Murray, WALGA Chief Financial Officer

The Zone's former Executive Officer was registered with the Australian Taxation Office as the Zone's authorised contact.

The Australian Taxation Office has requested WALGA to evidence of the Zone's approval to change its authorised contact.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President, Cr Liz Guidera
Seconded: President, Cr Scott Crosby

That the WALGA Great Southern Country Zone advise the Australian Taxation Office that the Zone's authorised contacts are to be amended as follows:

- 1. REVOKE all previous authorised contacts, including Annabel Paully; and**
- 2. AUTHORISE the following WA Local Government Association employees as authorised contacts:**
 - a. Rick Murray, Chief Financial Officer**
 - b. Nilpa Shah-Smith, Finance Manager**
 - c. Roselyn Fogg, Governance Specialist**

CARRIED

7.1.3. Zone Chairperson's Report

By Zone Chair, President Cr Chris Pavlovich

The Zone Chair provided a verbal update, including:

- Increased Commonwealth funding available for Housing, in addition to State funding. Local Governments are encouraged to access these funding opportunities to improve regional housing availability.
- Regional State Council hosted by the Zone at the Shire of Katanning – encouraged all Zone Delegates to attend, plus any interested Council members from Zone Local Governments.
- WALGA Convention in September.
 - WALGA AGM - important for voting delegates to be prepared with Council resolutions to inform their vote on the WALGA constitutional amendments.

NOTED.

7.1.4. Great Southern Roads Committee

By Cr Len Handasyde (Shire of Plantagenet), Chair

Nil.

7.1.5. Zone Hosting State Council – September 2023 - Update

Shire of Katanning CEO, Julian Murphy / Zone Chair, Cr Chris Pavlovich

Mr Murphy confirmed that arrangements are finalised.

NOTED.

Zone Forum Presentation

Lyn Fogg, Zone Executive Officer

Attachment No. 5 Zone Forum Draft Presentation (circulated under separate cover)

BACKGROUND

The Zone conducted a Workshop prior to the June meeting (Plantagenet) and subsequently considered and approved the range of topics to be addressed in the Zone Forum presentation to WALGA State Council during the Regional State Council meeting activities and the groupings by which the presentations could be developed, with the CEO's from the Shire's of Denmark, Cranbrook and Gnowangerup who kindly nominated to assist in coordinating presentations within their groupings.

Themes:	Groupings:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital connectivity • Housing • Emergency Management servicing, resourcing and funding administration • Health (GP) services – local triage capacity • Education services • Planning policy for renewable energy – focus on location selection, design development, exclusion zones for residential development during long planning lead times, community consultation and partnering with Local Government • Each grouping of Zone members to provide a local / regional showcase. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albany, Denmark and Jerramungup • Cranbrook, Kojonup and Plantagenet • Broomhill-Tambellup, Gnowangerup, Katanning, Kent and Woodanilling.

Zone member CEO's held a virtual meeting and considered the above approach and their capacity to develop detailed presentations for each of the selected themes. The CEO's subsequently agreed to the following presentation format:

Schedule	Topic	Presenter
1.30 – 1.45pm	Digital Connectivity 10 minutes (ish) / 5 minutes questions	Great Southern Development Commission with Department of Primary Industries
1.45 – 2.00pm	Bush Fire Mitigation Activity Fund 10 minutes (ish) / 5 minutes questions	Gnowangerup / Cranbrook CEOs
2.00 – 2.15pm	Planning Policy for Renewable Energy 10 minutes (ish) / 5 minutes questions	Broomehill-Tambellup / Kojonup CEO's
2.15 – 2.30pm	Albany Bicentennial	City of Albany
2.30 – 3.00pm	Afternoon Tea	
3.00 – 4.00pm	Regional Showcase Individual LG presentations 5 minutes each	Each LGs Mayor or President
4.00 – 5.30pm	Bus Tour	Shire of Katanning

COMMENT

The draft presentation is included as Attachment No.6 (circulated under separate cover) for the Zone's review.

Appreciation is extended to David Nicholson, Linda Gray and David King for facilitating the preparation of the Zone Forum presentations, and to the City of Albany for preparing the slide template used for the Regional Showcase.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President, Cr Fiona Gaze
Seconded: President, Cr Stephen Jefferies

The Great Southern Country Zone notes the Zone Forum presentation schedule and draft presentations provided in the Attachment No.5.

CARRIED

7.2. ZONE PRIORITY STRATEGIC ISSUES

7.2.1. Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) – Working Group

Cr Chris Pavlovich, Zone Chair

The Zone Chair provided a verbal update, including:

- Residual funding contributions from Zone Local Governments will be held, until Department of Home Affairs advises either acceptance of the DAMA business case or if the business case submissions requires adjustment, which may incur additional costs.
- Department advice was that advice would be provided within 3-months of the 30 May 2023 submission date.

NOTED.

7.3. MATTERS FOR ZONE NOTING AND DECISION

Items submitted to the Agenda by Zone Members or the WALGA Secretariat for Zone consideration.

7.3.1. Western Power headworks - Lead time for quotes

Shire of Plantagenet

BACKGROUND

The long lead times for obtaining quotes from Western Power for subdivision headworks are regularly highlighted as a constraint to project success.

The State Government has recently announced a \$40 million Infrastructure Development Fund in June 2023 to assist with the cost of resolving infrastructure constraints to developing regional Worker accommodation.

Delays in obtaining quotes for headworks may risk the success of the funding program and local government efforts to increase housing stock in regional communities.

COMMENT

Recent experiences with requests to Western Power would suggest that any funding application would be delayed if a quote was required. Providing an estimate rather than a quote in the funding application increases the risk for project costing.

Example 1

Conditional approval for a three-lot residential subdivision granted in Sept 2021.

The request for a quote from Western Power was submitted in Feb 2023 by our contracted electrical consultant. The quote is still outstanding.

Example 2

Minor subdivision that involved shifting a property boundary between a park and the hall. The Shire requested a new service to the recently installed public toilets and was advised that there was up to a 20-week delay for a service.

The request for a quote from Western Power was submitted on 1 December 2022 by our contracted electrical consultant. The Shire was subsequently advised the Western Power quote is dependent upon issue of conditional subdivision approval for the proposed boundary adjustment. The WAPC decision is still pending, and the quote is still outstanding.

The delays are a significant constraint on regional development. It would be useful to know the cause of the delays and whether Western Power is prioritising a solution.

RECOMMENDATION (Shire of Plantagenet)

That the Great Southern Country Zone request WALGA advocacy to State Government to reduce the time taken for Western Power to provide quotes to a maximum of three months.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Deputy President, Cr Jon Oldfield

Seconded: President, Cr Michael White

That the Great Southern Country Zone request WALGA advocacy to State Government to reduce the time taken for Western Power to provide quotes to a maximum of three months.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEM: Shire of Katanning to provide a Zone report detailing similar concerns arising from Landgate processes. Shires of Kojonup and Gnowangerup to contribute examples for inclusion in this report.

7.3.2. Commonwealth Disaster Ready Fund – Round Two

By Rachel Armstrong, Senior Policy Advisor Emergency Management, WALGA

Executive Summary

- The [Disaster Ready Fund](#) (DRF) is a \$200 million Commonwealth Government fund that provides grants to government and non-government organisations to help them reduce disaster risk.
- Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for DRF Round 2 are open now and applications for Round 2 will open in early 2024.
- Benefits to Local Governments in applying for the DRF include building partnerships with other organisations and receiving financial assistance for projects that reduce community vulnerability to disasters.
- The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) is actively engaging with organisations in preparation for Round 2 of the DRF, to identify projects that are most likely to be successful, as well as providing support and advice to develop strong applications.

- DFES is encouraging Local Governments interested in applying for DRF Round 2 to start planning now.
- DFES is holding a [grants webinar](#) on **Monday 4 September**, 10am to 12pm, which will provide more detail on how to submit a successful grant application, and the support available.

BACKGROUND

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

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

COMMENT

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLUTION

Moved: President, Cr Liz Guidera

Seconded: Cr Matt Benson-Lidholm

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

CARRIED

7.3.3. 2023 Local Government Elections – Zone Office Bearer Elections

BACKGROUND

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

A chronological overview of the process is detailed below:

- Local Government elections occur on Saturday, 21 October 2023.

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

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

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

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

RESOLUTION

Moved: **President, Cr Fiona Gaze**
Seconded: **President, Cr Liz Guidera**

That the Great Southern Country Zone note the process for election of Zone Representative and Deputy Representative to the WALGA State Council.

CARRIED

7.3.4. Late Item – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 - Update

By Alina Hobson, Policy Officer Community

The following State Council meeting “Item for noting”, was tabled for the Zone’s information:

RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the update on the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021*.

Executive Summary

- The *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* (the ACH Act) commenced on 1 July 2023.
- On 8 August 2023 the State Government announced it would repeal the ACH Act and restore the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*, with amendments.
- The *Aboriginal Heritage Legislation Amendments and Repeal Bill* (the Bill) was introduced into Parliament on 10 August 2023.
- The Aboriginal Heritage Implementation Group, established by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) to provide guidance to government on the implementation of the ACH Act, and including membership from a number of Aboriginal and industry groups, including WALGA, will continue in order to support the transition to the amended 1972 legislation.
- Until the Bill receives royal assent, the ACH Act remains in place.

Policy Implications

WALGA Advocacy Position:

3.1.4 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 and South West Native Title Settlement

WALGA supports the introduction of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 which will provide a modern framework for the recognition, protection, conservation and preservation of Aboriginal cultural heritage and recognises the fundamental importance of Aboriginal cultural heritage to Aboriginal people.

The State Government must ensure that:

1. *The legislation balances the need to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage with the requirement for Local Government to undertake activities in a timely and affordable manner;*
2. *The implementation and ongoing operation of the legislative system for the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage is adequately resourced to ensure that all parties have the capacity, capability and resources to discharge their statutory obligations;*
3. *Support is provided to Local Governments to ensure that they have the resources, capacity and capability to comply with a complex legislative framework; and*
4. *Local Governments have the ability to deliver essential infrastructure works and emergency activities efficiently and effectively in order to maintain public safety.*
5. *Regional local Aboriginal people are actively engaged in the Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services (LACHS) groups; and*
6. *The various Prescribed Body Corporates (PBCs) be required to actively seek out local regional members to be included in the consultation and decision-making process.*

(July 2022 -363.5/2022)

Background

On the 8th August 2023, the State Government [announced](#) its decision to repeal the *ACH Act* and restore the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*, with amendments in relation to:

- Greater representation of Aboriginal people in the key body that provides advice and recommendations to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, to be called the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Committee (Committee). It does this by maintaining the membership of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Council created under the 2021 Act and transferring it to the Committee;
- Proponents and Native Title parties having the same right of review for Section 18 decisions via the State Administrative Tribunal, with clear timeframes and an ability for the Premier to call-in a decision of 'State significance';
- When a Section 18 has been approved, a new requirement for the landowner to notify the Minister of any new information arising about any Aboriginal heritage site:
 - When new information is provided to the Minister, either by the landowner in compliance with their obligations or through other means, the Minister can amend the section 18 consent, including by imposing new conditions or changing the specification of the land to which it relates, revoke the consent, revoke the consent and give a new consent or confirm the consent; and
- Provisions in a contract or agreement which prohibit a native title party from seeking to be heard in relation to an application for a section 18 consent, including making submissions, or exercising any right to review or to commence proceedings, will have no effect.

The *Aboriginal Heritage Legislation Amendments and Repeal Bill 2023* was introduced into the Parliament on 10 August. The full legislative documents can be found [here](#).

From a Local Government perspective, the following additional points in the State Government's [media statement](#) are relevant:

- There will be no requirement on landowners to conduct their own heritage survey; and
- There will be a 10-year plan to undertake heritage surveys of unsurveyed areas in “high priority” areas of the State.

Comment

WALGA made several representations to the Minister in recent months seeking support for the sector in the transition to the ACH Act and was appointed as a member of the ACH Implementation Group which met once prior to the Government's decision to repeal the ACH Act. WALGA was not consulted on the decision to repeal the ACH Act.

The Implementation Group will continue to meet to:

- Support transition to an amended Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972;
- Share information on emerging issues;
- Discuss responses and potential solutions to issues; and
- Inform regulations and guidelines to support the proposed legislation.

Through its membership of the Implementation Group WALGA will be advocating to ensure that the regulations and guidelines are workable and provide the necessary clarity to allow Local Governments to undertake their activities.

Until the Bill receives royal assent, expected sometime between October and December 2023, the current ACH Act 2021 remains in place. Guidance on the ACH Act has been removed from the DPLH website and proponents requiring assistance or advice have been advised to contact DPLH.

NOTED.

8. WALGA STATE COUNCIL BUSINESS

8.1. ZONE STATE COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT

By Zone State Councillor: President Cr Chris Pavlovich

Nil – refer to Zone Chair report.

8.2. STATE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Attachment No. 6 [State Council Agenda: 13 September 2023](#) (external link/download)

WALGA State Council meets five times each year and the State Council's consideration of items is informed through consultation with Zone Member Local Governments.

The Zone, by resolution, may provide comment or submit an amended or alternative recommendation to those included in the State Council Agenda. The Zone resolution is then presented to the State Council for consideration.

'Matters for Decision' and 'Matters for Noting' by State Council are extracted and listed for Zone consideration in items 8.2.1 and 8.2.2 below.

8.2.1. Zone Matters for Noting or Decision

STATE COUNCIL Item 7.1 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Advocacy Position

Executive Summary

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

Recommendation

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

- 1. The State Government should fund the implementation of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Plan endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC).**
- 2. A reformed LEMA system should:**
 - a) Clearly articulate the roles and responsibilities of Local Governments in emergency management;**
 - b) Simplify the reporting processes and reduce the administrative burden of maintaining compliance;**

- c) *Provide a suite of scalable tools and guidance materials that are accessible through an online knowledge hub;*
- d) *Build the emergency management capacity and capability of Local Governments through the provision of targeted training, exercising support, human resources and sustainable funding;*
- e) *Assist Local Governments to continue to deliver their core business activities and provide public information during an emergency event;*
- f) *Improve the connectivity of Local Governments' various risk management and hazard planning processes through an integrated approach; and*
- g) *Enable resource sharing and collaboration across the Local Government sector.*

STATE COUNCIL Item 7.2 Advocacy Position on Road Works during Total Fire Ban

Executive Summary

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

Recommendation

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

1. **Road Activity Tiers:** That there be a tiered risk approach for road work activities and associated controls, based on the proposed activities and fire danger forecast.
2. **Local Government operations:** That any controls specified in regulations to provide effective risk mitigation and response be able to be implemented within the works crew deployed for the task.

Reduce Red Tape: That the processes where repeated notification to DFES for the same task at the same location is required be streamlined.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Deputy Mayor, Cr Sandie Smith

Seconded: President, Cr Fiona Gaze

That the Great Southern Country Zone supports the following Matters for Decision as detailed in the State Council Agenda 3 May 2023 provided as Attachment No.7, inclusive of:

1. Item 7.1 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Advocacy Position
2. Item 7.2 Advocacy Position on Road Works during Total Fire Ban

CARRIED

8.2.2. Matters for Noting

State Council Agenda 13 September 2023 'Matters for Noting' as listed below, are provide for Zone consideration and noting.

STATE COUNCIL Item 8 – Policy Team 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

STATE COUNCIL Item 9 – Matters for Noting / Information

- 9.1 Flying Minute – Consistent Local Planning Schemes
- 9.2 Flying Minute – Submission on the Draft State Waste Infrastructure Plan
- 9.3 Flying Minute – Submission on Directions Paper: Review of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2023
- 9.4 Flying Minute – Submission on Discussion Paper: Stage 3 Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 Review
- 9.5 Flying Minute – Independent Strategic Review of the Infrastructure Investment Program Submission
- 9.6 Flying Minute – Submission on Discussion Paper – Wired for Change: regulation for small electrical products and solar photovoltaic system waste
- 9.7 Concurrent Commonwealth Disaster Reviews

STATE COUNCIL Item 10 – Organisational Reports

- 10.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio
- 10.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio
- 10.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio
- 10.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio

RESOLUTION

Moved: Deputy President, Cr Julie Leenhouders
Seconded: Deputy President, Cr John Goodheart

That the Great Southern Country Zone NOTES all Matters for Noting and Organisational Reports as detailed in the State Council Agenda 13 September 2023.

CARRIED

8.2.3. WALGA State President's Report

Attachment No. 7 WALGA State President's Report – circulated under separate cover

RESOLUTION

Moved: Deputy Mayor, Cr Sandie Smith
Seconded: President, Cr Liz Guidera

That the Great Southern Country Zone NOTES the WALGA President's Report – September 2023.

CARRIED

9. EMERGING ISSUES / COLLABORATION

Zone Members are encouraged to provide a brief update on emerging issues in their District or matters on which they are seeking to connect with other Zone Members for direct collaboration or support.

9.1. SHIRE OF KATANNING

President, Cr Liz Guideria updated the Zone:

- Discussed concerns regarding the new Local Government Act provisions enabling parental leave and consequential reduction in numbers for quorums and absolute majority decisions, which may have substantial impact for Local Governments which have 5- 6 offices on Council. Other Zone member Local Governments echoed this concern.
- Shire is strongly advocating to State Government for retention and repurposing of the Katanning Hostel building.

9.2. CITY OF ALBANY

Deputy Mayor, Cr Sandie Smith updated the Zone:

- 'Cloud 9' business had opened in a location contrary to the City's Local Planning Scheme provisions. The City is initiating enforcement actions.
- The City's Draft Woolstores Precinct Structure Plan is now open for public comment until 6 October 2023.

9.3. SHIRE OF BROOMEHILL-TAMBELLUP

CEO, Anthony Middleton, updated the Zone:

- Wind turbine construction is progressing, however Shire has identified much greater impact on road infrastructure (damage) than expected.
- CBH development progressing.

9.4. SHIRE OF CRANBROOK

CEO, Linda Gray advised the JDAP is to determine the CBH multi handling facility development.

9.5. SHIRE OF DENMARK

A/CEO David King updated the Zone:

- High level of public interest in the Shire's proposed leasing of part of a reserve to a School. A Special Electors' meeting was attended by over 480 community members, with a range of motions subsequently considered by Council.
- A new mix housing development (social housing) is currently open for public submissions.

9.6. SHIRE OF PLANTAGENET

The Zone was updated:

- Housing availability continues to be a major issue.
- Shire is investigating land clearing off-sets (5:1 ratio) for new bike trail/s.
- Mining exploration small lot applications (graphite) have been withdrawn and larger proposals are likely to be submitted.

10. NEXT ZONE MEETING

The next meeting of the Great Southern Country Zone is scheduled to be held on:

- **24 November 2023 at the Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup**

11. CLOSURE

The meeting was declared closed at 12.23pm.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT No.1 Refers Item 5.5 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group – Terms of Reference

[Back to Item 5.5](#)

TERMS OF REFERENCE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURAL FREIGHT GROUP (Revision Endorsed 3 February 2012) (Name Changed 3 April 2017)

BACKGROUND

The Joint Zone Local Government Grain Infrastructure Group was established in March 2007 with representatives from the Avon-Midland Country Zone, Central Country Zone and Great Eastern Country Zone to discuss the impact on local roads of potential closures of grain freight rail lines.

The future of the WA Grain Freight Network has been under discussion for a number of years. In June 2009 the State Government, through the Freight and Logistics Council, established the Strategic Grain Network Committee (the Committee). The Committee, with representatives from the Freight and Logistics Council, Western Australian Local Government Association, Western Australian Farmers Federation, Pastoralist & Graziers Association, Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd, Australian Railroad Group, WestNet Rail, Public Transport Authority, Department of Planning and Department of Transport has been tasked by the Minister for Transport to make recommendations to him on the short, medium and long term future of the WA grain freight network. The Committee has commissioned Strategic Design and Development to undertake this Review.

Membership of the Group has been broadened beyond the three founding Zones due to the impact of decisions on the future of the WA Grain Freight Network to Local Governments beyond the areas serviced by these Zones.

OBJECTIVES *[Objectives changed from “grain freight task” to “agricultural freight task” 3 April 2017]*

- (1) To achieve an integrated road/rail network to support the agricultural freight task.
- (2) To facilitate the development of local government policy and capacity for a coordinated efficient approach to the use of roads by heavy vehicles in the agricultural freight task.
- (3) To provide input to the Western Australian Local Government Association on the agricultural freight task.
- (4) To provide a forum to promote and advocate an understanding of the issues associated with local roads supporting the agricultural freight task.
- (5) To advocate a community and industry understanding of the issues associated with the agricultural freight task. *[Added 7 August 2013]*

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (“the Group”) shall be:

- (1) The following Western Australian Local Government Association Zones (“constituent Zones”):

- Avon-Midland Country Zone
- Central Country Zone
- Great Eastern Country Zone
- Goldfields-Esperance Country Zone
(Zone advised 20 August 2009 that whilst interested in being kept informed they did not wish to participate at this time and did not require a delegate to be appointed)
- Great Southern Country Zone
- Northern Country Zone
- East Metropolitan Zone
- South Metropolitan Zone
- South-East Metropolitan Zone

(2) The following as non-voting participants:

- Pastoralists and Graziers Association of WA
- Western Australian Farmers Federation (Inc)

DELEGATES

Each constituent Zone is entitled to elect or appoint a delegate, who shall be an elected member, to represent it on the Group.

Each constituent Zone is entitled to elect or appoint a deputy delegate, who shall be an elected member.

The term of office of delegates and deputy delegates shall be two years with appointments made by constituent Zones following the biennial local government elections.

CHAIR

The Chair of the Group shall be elected from the delegates of the constituent Zones.

The constituent Zone from whom the Chair is elected is entitled to appoint a further delegate to the Group.

The term of office of the Chair shall be two years with election being held following the biennial local government elections.

VOTING

Each member of the Group shall be entitled to exercise one vote only.

In the event of an equality of votes in respect of a matter considered by the Group the matter shall be determined in the negative.

MEETINGS

Meetings of the Group shall be held as often as required, at times and places agreed by the Group.

Meetings may be held as face-to-face or by electronic means that allows the active and equal participation of all members.

QUORUM

Four delegates constitute a quorum subject to at least two of the delegates being from constituent Country Zones.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Secretarial and executive support shall be provided as determined from time to time by the Group, with support by the Western Australian Local Government Association.

FUNDING AND RESOURCES

All costs of the Group, including provision of secretarial and executive support, shall be shared equally between constituent Country Zones.

Support provided by the Western Australian Local Government Association shall be at no cost to the Group.

AGENDA AND MINUTES

Items for the agenda are to be forwarded 7 days prior to the meeting date.

Agendas and supporting papers will be distributed electronically prior to the meeting.

Minutes will be taken of all meetings and circulated electronically to all delegates within 30 days of the meeting.

REPORTING

Reporting back to the local government sector will be achieved by -

- Delegates to their Zones and Local Government Zone members; and
- The Western Australian Local Government Association to the local government sector and to the Regional Road Groups.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT No. 2 Refers Item 5.8 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Update August 2023

[Back to Item 5.8](#)



Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Report August 2023

Local Government Act Reform

- On 18 May 2023, the Local Government Amendment Bill 2023 was passed as the Local Government Amendment Act 2023 and assented to by the Governor.
- A number of electoral reforms, including optional preferential voting and backfilling extraordinary vacancies, will take effect for the 2023 elections.
- A number of provisions have now taken effect including –
 - Parental leave for council members;
 - The ability of a local government to apply for a compliance exemption;
 - Removal of the ability for a council to waive an interest relating to an electoral gift;
 - Changes to special electors' meetings to increase the number of signatures required to hold a meeting (from 100 to 300) and provide for a mayor or president to prevent a meeting from being held on the same subject more than once in a 12 month period; and
 - The requirement to record in minutes the individual votes of council and committee members.
- 63 Governor's orders for local governments and a population estimates order were gazetted on 30 June 2023, giving effect to the reforms to representation based on population data at the upcoming 2023 local government elections.
- In addition, regulations to support implementation of these reforms have been finalised and are also now in effect.
- The remainder of the reforms will be rolled out in the coming year, such as standardised meeting procedures, with regulations being developed in consultation with the sector.
- Further information in relation to these changes can be found on the DLGSC website on the Local Government Reforms.
- DLGSC is running a series of monthly webinars and deep dives into specific topics regarding the reforms.
- The next webinar is scheduled for 3 August 2023 to provide an update on the rollout of local government reforms generally and to take a deep dive into the lessons related changes - look out for LG Alerts for more details.
- If you would like a link to recordings of previous webinars, this is available on [DLGSC website under local government reforms](#)
- DLGSC has also teamed up with LG Pro to deliver a series of monthly capacity-building webinars.

Model Financial Statements (MFS) and Financial

- Model Financial Statements (MFS) for Class 1 and 2, plus a reduced version for smaller local governments (Class 3 and 4) are now published on the DLGSC website.
- An LG alert was issued on Tuesday 16 May 2023 advising of their availability.
- The MFS will apply to 2022-23 annual financial statement reports.
- Guidelines have also been developed to accompany the MFS.

- A first tranche of regulatory amendments for the MFS commenced on 1 July 2022.
- A second tranche of regulatory amendments for the MFS commenced on 1 July 2023.
- The 1 July 2023 version of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 does not include the new credit card regulation 13A. The Regulations will be updated again on 1 September 2023 when the last provision of the Local Government Amendment Regulations 2023 commences.
- Contact LG Accounting for queries – Lg.accounting@dlgsc.wa.gov.au

Management Regulations Amendments

- Model Financial Statements (MFS) for Bands 1 and 2, plus a reduced version for smaller local governments (Bands 3 and 4) are now published on the DLGSC website.
- An LG alert was issued on Tuesday 15 May 2023 advising of their availability.
- The MFS will apply to 2022-23 annual financial statement reports.
- Guidelines have also been developed to accompany the MFS.
- A first tranche of regulatory amendments for the MFS commenced on 1 July 2022.
- A second tranche of regulatory amendments for the MFS are currently being drafted and are anticipated to be gazetted by 30 June 2023.
- DLGSC has received feedback from LG Professionals and WALGA with the proposed second tranche of regulatory amendments to support the introduction of the MFS and improved transparency in financial reporting obligations.
- Contact LG Accounting for queries – lgaccounting@dlgsc.wa.gov.au

Local Government (Functions and General) Amendment Regulations 1996

- The Local Government (Functions and General) Amendment Regulations 1996 were gazetted on Friday 19 May 2023. These amendments do the following:

Rural GP and Dentists tender exemption

- Recognising the importance of maintaining medical and dental services in our regions, a tender exemption for renewing or extending a contract with a medical or dental service is being provided to regional local governments.
- This exemption means those local governments will be able to maintain the services of an existing doctor or dentist without needing to call for public tenders.
- This exemption is only available to local governments outside the Perth Metropolitan Area and City of Mandurah.

Novation of Contracts

- An additional tender exemption is provided for where a local government novates a contract.
- As an example In the context of a dental service, this means where the dental practice is sold to another dentist, the local government can novate the existing contract with the old dentist to the new dentist.
- This improves local government contract management, allowing novation of contracts to occur, local governments should however make sure it is in their interest to novate the contract.
- This exemption is available to all local government.

Dental leasing exemption

- An exemption from the property disposal requirements has been provided for the leasing of land for dental services.
- This is to align with the new exemption provided for regional medical and dental services.
- This exemption is however available to all local governments, like the existing medical services exemption is.

Further queries can be directed – actreview@dlgsc.wa.gov.au

Local Government Grants Commission

- The WA Local Government Grants Commission now has a full composition with the recent appointment of the Chairperson (Councillor Daniel Bull), Country Urban Member (Dr Wendy Giles) and Deputy Urban Member (Ms. Virginia Miltrup).
- An advance payment of the 2023-24 Financial Assistance Grants (FA Grants), based on a funding pool equivalent to approximately 100% of the total 2023-24 funding pool, was made to local governments on the 30 June 2023.
- The advance payments were calculated by the Commonwealth using the relativities established under the Commission's calculations for 2022-23 and needs to be recognised as revenue for 2022-23.
- It is important for local governments to note that the advance payment does not reflect their total 2023-24 grant allocation, and some may receive extremely limited or no quarterly payments in 2023-24.
- Local Governments will need to ensure they have sufficient funds for 2023-24 to complete their planned programs and activities for that year and that their 2023-24 budgeted recognise the reduction in the 2023-24 FA Grants payments.

Stop Puppy Farming

- The Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2021 was passed by the Parliament in December 2021.
- The new laws, including for the registration and breeding of dogs, will take some time to implement.
- There will be consultation with stakeholders, including local governments, for the design and development of a centralised registration system (CRS) for dogs and cats covered under the *Dog Act 1976* and the *Cat Act 2011*, and for the development of regulations to give legal effect to the functions of the CRS.
- The DLGSC conducted engagement activities with local governments in the second half of 2022. Through this, local government requirements for the CRS were captured for inclusion within the system requirements and scope.
- Progression towards procurement of the CRS and scoping of the regulations is underway. The Request for Tender for the CRS was released to the market on 24 January closed on 8 March 2023.
- The DLGSC is currently evaluating tender responses received.
- The DLGSC is continuing to engage with key stakeholders to support ongoing progress towards the reforms.
- A discussion paper is currently being considered by the Minister for Local Government and further information regarding the release will be provided in due course.

DLGSC Contacts

LG Support and Engagement	lghotline@dlgsc.wa.gov.au
LG Policy and Legislation	legislation@dlgsc.wa.gov.au
CRS – Stop Puppy Farming	puppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au
Grants Commission – Financial Assistance Grants	Grants.commission@dlgsc.wa.gov.au
LG accounting enquiries	LG.accounting@dlgsc.wa.gov.au
LG Act reform	actreview@dlgsc.wa.gov.au

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT No.3 Refers Item 6.2 Great Southern Country Zone Status Report – August 2023

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Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Grt Southern C	17 February 2023 Zone Agenda Item 5.9. National Recovery and Resilience Agency	That the Great Southern Country Zone requests WALGA to survey Local Governments to quantify the impact to Local Government of Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements WA reimbursement delays, including for each affected Local Government the \$ value and timeframe for which reimbursements have been outstanding / delayed, and for WALGA to advocate to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services expedite resolution of this issue.	The Infrastructure Policy Team considered this matter and resolved that WALGA survey Local Governments to quantify the extent and impact of Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement reimbursement delays. This has been added to the work program, with timing and resources to be determined.	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Grt Southern C	25 November 2022 Zone Agenda Item 6 Confirmation of Previous Minutes	That the Great Southern Zone requests WALGA to advocate for the upgrade of existing infrastructure [telecommunication] (towers).	The Association continues to advocate for Federal and State Governments to work with telecommunications carriers to provide appropriate telecommunications services. Guidelines for the Mobile Network Hardening Program were reviewed in the current period. No major changes are proposed to the program that has been effective in strengthening the resilience and capacity of the system in WA.	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Grt Southern C	25 November 2022 Zone Agenda Item 6.2 Zone Status Report	That the Great Southern Zone request WALGA to consider an advocacy position on the South Coast Highway reconstruction in relation to the proposed cost and invite all Local Governments along the South Coast corridor to participate.	This matter has been referred by State Council for consideration by the Infrastructure Policy Team.	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Grt Southern C	25 November 2022 Zone Agenda Item 6.2 Zone Status Report	That the Great Southern Zone request WALGA to advocate for a review of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA, WA) to reduce the extensive delays in the reporting system.	WALGA staff met with the Tim McNaught (Director Recovery Funding, Dept of Fire and Emergency Services) and members of his team during July with follow up discussions to be scheduled. There are significant additional resources being applied to processing claims, but fundamental concerns with process design remain.	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031

<p>Grt Southern C</p>	<p>2019 Nov 25 Zone Agenda Item 8.1 .2 Prioritise Key Strategic Issues for the Zone in 2020 Clearing Requirements in Town Sites – Align with Metropolitan Requirements</p>	<p>That WALGA writes to the Minister for Emergency Services, the Minister for Planning, Lands and Heritage and the Minister for Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety to request an amendment to the Action Plan for Bushfire Framework Review 2019, to increase in the minimum area of declared bushfire prone vegetation from one hectare to four hectare to be valid for regional and remote townsites and villages in addition to metropolitan areas.</p>	<p>In July 2019, Government announced an Action Plan for Bushfire Framework Review that outlined key changes to be implemented by DPLH, DFES and DMIRS including a new map of Bushfire Prone Areas, and a revised State Planning Policy 3.7 and associated Guidelines for Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas. Both are due to be advertised in Feb 2023. More information can be found here: https://www.dplh.wa.gov.au/bushfireframeworkreview2019</p> <p>DPLH is currently advertising SPP3.7 (2023) and the associated guidelines following a comprehensive review of the policy. The consultation period closes on 17 July 2023.</p> <p>While the consultation is only for the SPP and Guidelines, the State has flagged significant amendments to the State Bushfire Prone Area Map to be advertised later in 2023. Information on the review can be read here.</p> <p>In line with Stage 1b of the Action Plan for the Bushfire Framework Review (the Review), the proposed map proposes a new lower risk category for significantly built-up urban areas for the Perth, Peel and Bunbury areas.</p> <p>Stage 2 of the Review will see a new mapping methodology for the rest of the State developed.</p> <p>WALGA's submission, to be presented to State Council at its July 2023 meeting, highlights the concerns of the Great Southern Zone, and seeks the Stage 2 work to be expediated and where feasible and safe seek to expand those areas included within the Stage 1b review of the Bushfire Prone Area Map.</p> <p>WALGA's submission supported grassland areas being included in Stage 2 of the review of the Bushfire Prone Map and SPP3.7 (2023) so appropriate policy provisions for predominate grassland areas that reflect the level of risk experienced in these areas can be established.</p> <p>COMPLETE</p>	<p>August 2023</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039</p>
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ATTACHMENT No.4 Refers Item 6.2.1 Great Southern Country Action Items Report – June 2023

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Great Southern Country Zone – ACTION ITEMS				
ZONE MEETING DATE / ITEM	ZONE RESOLUTION	ZONE RESPONSE	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
<p>2022, 22 Apr Item 8.2 Creation of the Great Southern Roads Sub-Committee</p>	<p>Sub-Committee Terms of Reference:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To investigate the current road infrastructure right across the networks (State, Regional Road Group roads and other local roads) as to their fit for purpose from a freight task and road safety and efficiency perspective both now and in the next 20 years. Once the data is known, make recommendations to the Great Southern Zone of WALGA in order for them to advocate and seek funding to remedy the shortfalls. Co-opt members as required to fulfil the above task as there will be outside technical expertise required from time to time. Report progress of sub-committee to the Great Southern Zone of WALGA at each of its meetings. Finalise a report for publishing prior to the end of 2023-24 financial year. Group to cease operations on 30 June 2024. <p>Members: Cr Mark Paganoni, Cr Kevin Gale, Cr Dale Douglas, Cr George Pollard, Cr Scott Crosby, Simon Lyas (RDA Great Southern) and Cr Len Handasyde.</p>	<p>28 Oct 2022: Zone Executive consulted with the 'Sub-Committee' Chair, who confirmed transition to the name 'Great Southern Roads Committee'. Zone Agenda template updated.</p>	<p>ONGOING to 30 June 2024</p>	
<p>2022, 26 Aug Item 7.2.1 Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA)</p>	<p>That a working group consisting of three Great Southern Local Government Authority CEOs from the Shires of Kojonup, Katanning and Plantagenet, and the Great Southern Country Zone President, be established to progress the DAMA on behalf of all committed Great Southern Local Governments.</p> <p><u>DAMA Working Group Charter:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Recommending the committed Local Government's consult with their respective industries on skill shortages and gather supporting evidence by Friday, 23 Sept 2022. (a) Review the other WA DAMA business cases and their learnings to determine our process and next steps; and 	<p>Working Group Terms of Reference conclude as at 28 October 2022.</p> <p>GSCZ 28/10/2022 - refer item 7.2.4 -Resolution to extend Charter:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Endorse the Great Southern Country Zone DAMA Working Group Charter being extended to include review and recommendation to the Zone of the Draft Business Case. <p>23 June 2023 – Phase 3 of the EY consultancy has been completed (business case submitted to Dpt of Home Affairs). Working Group will be wound up subject to any additional work required following feedback from the Dept / Minister – expected late June 2023.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>	<p>DAMA Working Group (Zone)</p>

Great Southern Country Zone – ACTION ITEMS				
ZONE MEETING DATE / ITEM	ZONE RESOLUTION	ZONE RESPONSE	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
	<p>(b) Prepare a draft budget and scope of works for the business case and prepare a shortlist of suitable contractors to quote on the business case by 17 Oct 2022.</p> <p>3. Prepare the final report with recommendations for the next Great Southern Country Zone meeting on Friday, 28 October 2022.</p> <p>The meeting AGREED that the DAMA Working Group meetings should include representation from the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) and Regional Development Australia Great Southern (RDA-GS)</p>			
<p>2022, 28 Oct Item 7.2.4 Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) Project</p>	<p>7. Endorse the Shire of Kojonup CEO and the Regional Development Authority Great Southern Inc CEO to act jointly as the Zone representatives for communication between the consultant and the Zone and member Local Governments to facilitate preparation of the Business Plan.</p>	<p>21 April 2023: Phase 1 and 2 of the EY consultancy have been completed – refer DAMA Working Group and RDAGS reports at the April 2023 meeting.</p> <p>23 June 2023 – Phase 3 of the EY consultancy has been completed (business case submitted to Dpt of Home Affairs). Item completion will be subject to any additional work required following feedback from the Dept / Minister – expected late June 2023.</p>	IN PROGRESS	Kojonup CEO RDAGS CEO
<p>2023, 23 June Item 7.1.2 Change Zone Banking Authorities</p>	<p>That the Great Southern Country Zone of the WA Local Government Association approves the following changes to authorised bank signatories and online banking access for its Commonwealth Bank account (Katanning branch), to:</p> <p>a. <u>Remove</u>: Tina Mosscrop; and</p> <p>b. <u>Add</u>: Nilpa Shah-Smith, WA Local Government Association Finance Manager.</p>	<p>25 August 2023 - Zone resolution provided to WALGA Chief Financial Officer for processing with the bank.</p>	COMPLETED GSCZ 25/08/2023	Zone Executive Officer
<p>2023, 23 June Item 7.1.5 Zone Hosting State Council – September 2023</p>	<p>1. AGREES on the following themes for the Zone Forum presentation at the State Council Regional Visit on 12 September 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital connectivity • Housing • Emergency Management servicing, resourcing and funding administration • Health (GP) services – local triage capacity • Education services 	<p>25 August 2023 - Refer Item 7.1.4 of the August meeting, which presents the draft Zone Forum presentations</p>	COMPLETED GSCZ-25/08/2023 – 7.1.4	Zone Member CEOs

Great Southern Country Zone – ACTION ITEMS				
ZONE MEETING DATE / ITEM	ZONE RESOLUTION	ZONE RESPONSE	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning policy for renewable energy – focusing on location selection, design development, exclusion zones for residential development during long planning lead times, community consultation and partnering with Local Government Each grouping of Zone members to provide a local / regional showcase. <p>2. ENDORSES the following groupings of Local Governments for presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Albany, Denmark and Jerramungup Cranbrook, Kojonup and Plantagenet Broomhill-Tambellup, Gnowangerup, Katanning, Kent and Woodanilling. <p>3. NOTES the following CEO’s nominated to collaborate on the allocation of themes to their respective Local Government grouping and then to coordinate the preparation of their grouping’s draft presentations for review at the Zone’s 25 August 2023 meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shire of Denmark, A/CEO David King Shire of Cranbrook, CEO Linda Gray Shire of Gnowangerup, CEO David Nicholson. 			
<p>2023, 23 June Item 7.1.6 LG Agricultural Freight Group Contributions</p>	<p>1. Approves payment of \$941.48 (ex.GST) to the Avon-Midland Country Zone as contribution to the administration of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group for the 2021/2022 and 2022/23 financial year; and</p> <p>2. Notes that the Zone’s Budget and member subscription levies will be submitted for review at the August 2023 Zone meeting.</p>	<p>25 August 2023 – Invoice payments have been processed. Refer August meeting papers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item 5.5 re status of the LGAFG; and Item 7.1.1 re levying Zone subscription fees 		