

# Great Southern Country Zone

## Minutes SHELL

Friday, 23 June 2023

Commenced at 10am

### Shire of Plantagenet

Mount Barker Community Resource Centre  
Auditorium, 1 Lowood Road  
Mount Barker

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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.

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

Shire of Plantagenet, Deputy President, Cr Jon Oldfield welcomed the Great Southern Zone to the Shire.

### 1.1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTY

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

## 2. ATTENDANCE

### ZONE MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES:

#### City of Albany

Cr Matt Benson-Lidholm  
Cr Paul Terry (Deputy)  
Mr Paul Camins (CEO Representative)  
Mr Stuart Jamieson (Observer)

Executive Director Infrastructure,  
Development and Environment  
Manager Governance and Risk

#### Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup

Manager Finance / Administration

President, Cr Michael White  
Deputy President, Cr Doug Barritt  
Kay O'Neill

#### Shire of Cranbrook

Cr Daisy Egerton-Warburton (Deputy)  
Cr Jen Quick (Deputy)  
CEO Linda Gray (non-voting)

#### Shire of Denmark

Cr Donna Carman  
Cr Janine Phillips  
A/CEO David King (non-voting)

#### Shire of Gnowangerup

President, Cr Fiona Gaze  
Deputy President, Cr Greg Stewart  
CEO David Nicholson (non-voting)

#### Shire of Jerramungup

Deputy President, Cr Julie Leenhouders  
President, Cr Jo Iffla (Deputy Member)  
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 Kojonup

Cr Alan Egerton-Warburton  
Cr Ned Radford (Deputy)  
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  
CEO Kelly Bartley (non-voting)

**GUESTS**

**Agencies**

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

Great Southern Regional Roads Group Cr Len Handasyde, Shire of Plantagenet

**Guest Speakers**

Boyd Brown, Regional General Manager WA, Telstra Retail & Regional  
Michael Heydon, Regional Community Engagement Manager, Telstra

**WALGA**

Nick Sloan, Chief Executive Officer  
Lyn Fogg, Zone Executive Officer

**2.1. APOLOGIES**

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City of Albany

Mayor Dennis Wellington  
Cr Smith  
CEO, Andrew Sharpe (non-voting)

Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup

CEO, Anthony Middleton (non-voting)

Shire of Cranbrook

President, Cr Philip Horrocks  
Deputy President, Cr George Pollard  
Cr Andrew Price

Shire of Jerramungup

Shire of Kent

President, Cr Scott Crosby  
Deputy President, Cr Kate Johnston  
Cr R A Jury (Deputy)  
CEO, Adam Seiler (Non-Voting)

Shire of Kojonup

Shire of Woodanilling

Cr Kevin Gale  
Deputy President, Cr Russel Thomson

Department of Local Government,  
Sport, and Cultural Industries

Great Southern Development  
Commission

Regional Development Australia –  
Great Southern WA Inc

WALGA, Roadwise

Mel Eastough, Regional Manager

Natasha Monks, Chief Executive Officer  
Jarrard Gardner

Simon Lyas, Director, Regional Development

Vivienne Gardiner, Regional Road Safety Adviser

### 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.*

**No Members of Parliament were in attendance.**

#### 4.2. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATION

*Details of guest speakers approved by the Zone for future meetings*

Zone Meeting Dates 2023		Speaker Confirmed
23 June	Plantagenet	Telstra ( <i>approved GSCZ-17/02/23</i> )
25 August	Albany	Education Department, Nikolai Emery, Engagement and Transition Manager ( <i>approved GSCZ-21/04/2023</i> )
24 November	Broomehill -Tambellup	

#### 4.2.1. Telstra – Regional Communications

The presentation was provided by Telstra's **Boyd Brown**, Regional General Manager WA and **Michael Heydon**, Regional Community Engagement Manager – copy of the presentation is provided as Attachment No.1.

**Attachment No. 1** [Telstra Presentation](#)

**ACTIONS:** Zone member Local Governments may take action on the following:

1. Report 'blackspot' communication locations to the Great Southern Development Commission (Pippa or Jarrad) or to Telstra.
2. Contact Telstra regarding any strategic opportunities.

**Contact details:** Telstra  
Michael Heydon  
Community Engagement and Government Relations Manager for the South West, Great Southern, Peel and Wheatbelt  
[Michael.Heydon@team.telstra.com](mailto:Michael.Heydon@team.telstra.com) / 0422570093

## **5. AGENCY REPORTS**

### **5.1. GREAT SOUTHERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (GSDC)**

*Report by Natasha Monks, Chief Executive Officer*

Nil.

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

*Report by Simon Lyas, Chief Executive Officer*

Simon Lyas, CEO was an apology for this meeting.

Simon confirmed prior to the meeting that the DAMA Business Case was submitted to the Dept of Home Affairs on 30 May 2023. Advising that the RDA-GS office has confirmation the submission has been registered and has had a brief conversation to discuss the assessment process on 6 June with the Home Affairs labour agreement team.

No firm timeframe was given on the Business Case assessment, however 3-months would be the minimum we can expect and possibly longer as the immigration policies are being reviewed by the Australian Government.

RDA will keep the WALGA Zone informed of progress in due course.

Cr Matt Benson-Lidholm also spoke to this item.

**Noted.**

### **5.3. SOUTH COAST NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (SCNRM)**

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

**Noted.**

### **5.4. GREAT SOUTHERN HUMAN SERVICES FORUM**

*Report by Michaela Crosby, Shire of Kent*

Nil.

### **5.5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURAL FREIGHT GROUP (LGAFG)**

*Report by Cr Russel Thomson, Zone Delegate Shire of Woodanilling*

Nil.

### **5.6. GREAT SOUTHERN REGIONAL ROADS GROUP**

*Report by Cr Len Handasyde, Shire of Plantagenet*

There is not a lot to report at present as final project acquittal figures for the year are not know at this point. I have heard from MRWA GSR that the acquittals are pretty good, but we will see.

The GSRRG has been allocated \$8M over two-years to complete specific road works in the Secondary Freight Network and this process is being worked up as to the criteria for those projects.



It is currently thought that up to four key projects for the first years' funding for the key freight routes that will benefit the whole region will be the target for this funding. The GSRRG Chair has been in discussion with MRWA GSR staff to work up a proposal to take to a meeting in the near future to enable the funding to be utilised and acquitted on time.

Some of the funding can be used for planning. At the last GSRRG meeting held in Kojonup, it was resolved to set aside \$500,000 for this planning / roads study. This was reduced by MRWA to \$250,000 and this level of funding should be manageable for this level of study. MRWA staff have been very helpful as we begin this process.

As a key part of this process, MRWA will be requesting road use data in the form of traffic counts and the like from each Local Government in the GSRRG. This will inform the basis for this study. Once the study is complete an advocacy document will be produced that will detail the already known impacts of heavy freight on this network, the known shortfalls that exist currently and the expected future impacts.

**Noted.**

#### **5.7. WALGA ROADWISE**

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*Report by Vivienne Gardner, RoadWise Road Safety Advisor*

**Attachment No. 2** [WALGA Roadwise Report](#)

**Noted.**

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

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*Report by Mel Eastough, Regional Manager*

**Attachment No. 3** [DLGSC Update May 2023](#)

**Noted.**

### **6. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Deputy President Cr Julie Leenhouders  
**Seconded:** President Cr Jo Iffla

That the minutes of the Great Southern Country Zone meeting held on 21 April 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. 4 [Great Southern Country Zone Status Report June 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 Michael White

**Seconded:** President, Cr Jo Iffla

**That the Great Southern Country Zone NOTES the Status Report dated June 2023, as detailed in Attachment No.4.**

**CARRIED**

### 6.2.1. Zone Action Items Report

*By Lyn Fogg, Zone Executive Officer*

### Attachment No. 5 [Great Southern Country Zone Action Items Report June 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:** Deputy President, Cr Jon Oldfield

**Seconded:** President, Cr Jo Iffla

**That the Great Southern Country Zone NOTES the Action Items Report dated June 2023, as detailed in Attachment No.5.**

**CARRIED**

## 7. ZONE BUSINESS

### 7.1. ZONE REPORTS

#### 7.1.1. Zone Financial Report

*By Rick Murray, WALGA Chief Financial Officer*

##### **Zone Financial Report for May 2023**

*(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 period ended 31 May 2023.

##### **DAMA Project**

Income includes contributions to fund the DAMA project, totalling \$70,000 (ex.GST) which have been invoiced and collected.

As the project is expected to cost less than the contributions, the expense for the project brought to account includes invoices submitted by EY for work done to 31 May 2023. These include the first two instalments totalling \$30,900 and the most recent invoice for an additional expense of \$10,300 for payment in June.

The balance of DAMA funds held by WALGA, which is managing the collection and disbursement of project funds, is currently \$39,100 before the payment of the most recent invoice of \$10,300.

A recommendation on the application of the surplus funds can be determined at the next meeting when the project is expected to be complete and the balance confirmed.

**Table 1 Statement of Income and Expenditure – period ended 31 May 2023**

Great Southern Country Zone Statement of Income and Expenditure as at 31 May 2023		
	Actual \$	Budget \$
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions	6,050	6,050
Project Income	70,000	70,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>76,050</b>	<b>76,050</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Bank Fees	110	120
Meeting Costs	5,001	6,784
Project Expenses	41,200	70,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>46,311</b>	<b>76,904</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>29,739</b>	<b>-\$854</b>
<b>Notes</b>		
1. Budget approved 25 November 2022 (Item 7.1.2)		
2. Subscriptions excl GST 11@ \$550 each since received in full.		
3. Project Expenses EY Instalments 1&2 paid \$30,900+ accrual for 31 May invoice \$10,300 ( pending approval)		
4. Surplus now anticipated from project - application of final project balance expected at August meeting		

**Table 2: Balance Sheet presenting the Zone's financial position as at 31 May 2023**

<b>Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>
Bank	7,740
Debtors (Note 1)	39,100
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>46,840</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
WALGA - catering costs for reimbursement (note 2)	5,001
Accrual (Note 3)	10,300
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>15,301</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>31,538</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
Members Funds B/F	1,800
Current year earnings	29,739
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>31,538</b>

<b>Note 1: Funds held by WALGA waiting payment of EY</b>	
Contributions collected	70,000
2 Instalments paid to Consultants EY	(30,900)
Funds Held	<b>39,100</b>
<b>Note 2:</b> catering costs covered by WALGA due to delay in bank signatories. To be reimbursed by Zone in June	
<b>Note 3: Liability - EY DAMA Project Consultants (net of gst)</b>	
31 May 2023 Invoice pending approval	
Total	11,330
GST	1,030
Net	<b>10,300</b>

#### Notes to Balance Sheet

1. The balance sheet shows positive equity of \$\$31,538, which is mostly due to surplus DAMA project funds

#### RESOLUTION

Moved: Deputy President Cr Julie Leenhouders

Seconded: Deputy President Cr Jon Oldfield

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

CARRIED

#### **7.1.2. Change Zone Banking Authorities**

*By Rick Murray, WALGA Chief Financial Officer*

WALGA requires a resolution from the Zone to replace a signatory for the Zone's Bank account, resulting from staff changes.

#### RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Fiona Gaze

Seconded: President Cr Liz Guidera

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:

- a. Remove: Tina Mossdrop; and
- b. Add: Nilpa Shah-Smith, WA Local Government Association Finance Manager.

CARRIED

### **7.1.3. Zone Chairperson's Report**

*By Zone Chair, President Cr Chris Pavlovich*

Another financial year is almost upon us and we start the process all over again. The Great Southern Zone has not been immune from lack of supplier interest in the tender process and ever-increasing costs which makes delivering for our communities even more challenging.

There seems to be an increasing interest for people to move to the Great Southern and the DAMA, if supported by the Department, will ensure continued growth in the region. This puts pressure on the limited housing available and delays in building new homes. There is funding support from both the State and Federal governments for new housing development so I hope some of this assistance will find its way into this region.

As mentioned at the last Great Southern Zone meeting, our Zone will be hosting WALGA State Council on the 12th & 13th September 2023 in Katanning. This is a great opportunity for our members to present on day one to the wider local government sector on our achievements and also constraints. I understand a bus tour of Katanning is planned to show what this regional centre has achieved and services to the wider community. All elected members in the Zone will be able to attend, meet State Councillors and socialise on the Tuesday afternoon.

As we finalise and adopt our budgets, please liaise with your Council and bring Local Government issues to the Zone meetings. WALGA represents all 139 local governments and is very effective in lobbying for the benefit of WA Local Governments and their communities.

**Noted**

### **7.1.4. Great Southern Roads Committee**

*By Cr Len Handasyde (Shire of Plantagenet), Chair*

Refer to the Great Southern Regional Roads Group report - No further to report from the Roads Committee.

#### **Zone Secretariat:**

*Lyn Fogg, Zone Executive Officer*

At the Zone meeting held 28 October 2022 (Item 7.1.3) the Zone resolved:

*That the Great Southern Roads Report be received and the \$4000.00 per Zone Local Government funding request be forwarded to all Local Governments for their consideration and that a formal request be made to the Great Southern Development Commission as well as RDA Great Southern.*

At the Great Southern Regional Roads Group meeting held 21 April 2023, Main Roads WA (MRWA) confirmed that \$8M funding has been allocated to the Great Southern Secondary Freight Network. MRWA agreed to allocate funding and to lead and facilitate development of the proposed Business Case, in consultation with the Regional Roads Group.

Zone Member Local Governments will therefore not be required to provide funding for this project.

## RESOLUTION

Moved: President, Cr Jo Iffla  
Seconded: President, Cr Liz Guidera

That the Great Southern Country Zone notes:

1. Main Roads WA will be funding and facilitating the proposed Business Case for the Great Southern Secondary Freight Route, in consultation with the Great Southern Regional Roads Group; and
2. No further action is required in regard to the Zone's resolution on 28 October 2022 (Item 7.1.3) that sought Zone Member Local Government's financial contribution to fund this project.

CARRIED

### **7.1.5. Zone Hosting State Council – September 2023 - Update**

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

The program for the Zone's Hosting of the WALGA State Council is as follows:

**Tuesday, 12 September, Shire of Katanning Leisure Centre, Pioneer Room**

12:30pm	Lunch
1:30-4.00pm	Zone Forum (format to be decided by the Zone)
4.00-5.00pm	Shire of Katanning Bus Tour
6:30pm	WALGA dinner (venue TBC)

**Wednesday, 13 September, The Premier Mill Hotel, Old Power Station Room**

8:30am	State Council Strategic Forum
10:30am	Morning tea
11:00am	State Council meeting
12:30pm	Lunch

The Zone Forum provides a 1 ½ to 2 hour timeslot in which the Zone's 11 Local Government members may present on topics that promote awareness of local achievements and constraints.

**It was agreed at the Zone's April 2023** meeting that the Chair, President Cr Chris Pavlovich, would coordinate a meeting with the Zone's Mayor and President's for the purpose of coordinating the Zone's presentation to the Regional State Council Zone Forum.

Zone members, including CEO's were invited to attend a workshop to be held immediately prior to this Zone meeting to consider themes/topics and coordination of the presentation to the Zone Forum.

It is recommended that the Zone agree the theme/s and presentation arrangements for the Zone Forum and establish a small Working Group of CEOs (or the CEO's nominated representative) that can facilitate and coordinate the presentation.

## RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Fiona Gaze  
Seconded: Deputy President Cr Julie Leenhouders

The Great Southern Country Zone:

1. **AGREES** on the following themes for the Zone Forum presentation at the State Council Regional Visit on 12 September 2023:
  - Digital connectivity
  - Housing
  - Emergency Management servicing, resourcing and funding administration
  - Health (GP) services – local triage capacity
  - Education services
  - 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.
  
2. **ENDORSES** the following groupings of Local Governments for presentations:
  - Albany, Denmark and Jerramungup
  - Cranbrook, Kojonup and Plantagenet
  - Broomhill-Tambellup, Gnowangerup, Katanning, Kent and Woodanilling.
  
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:
  - Shire of Denmark, A/CEO David King
  - Shire of Cranbrook, CEO Linda Gray
  - Shire of Gnowangerup, CEO David Nicholson.

**CARRIED**

### **7.1.6. LATE ITEM – Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Contributions**

*By Lyn Fogg, Zone Executive Officer*

The Local Government Agricultural Freight Group membership includes:

- Avon-Midland Country Zone
- Central Country Zone
- Great Eastern Country Zone
- Great Southern Country Zone.

Cr Russel Thomson, Shire of Woodanilling is the Zone's appointed delegate to the Group.

The Agricultural Freight Group is administered on behalf of the member Zones by the Avon-Midland Country Zone's contracted Executive Officer, with costs to be shared between member Zones.

The Avon-Midland Country Zone Executive Officer, Robert Drew advised on 21 June 2023, that the Great Southern Country Zone had not paid its contribution for 2021/2022 and that 2022/2023 contributions were also now levied as follows:

	Ex.GST
2021/2022 Freight Group Total Expenses: \$2,321.84 Great Southern Country Zone contribution (invoice 364)	\$527.69
2022/2023 Freight Group Total Expenses: \$1,820.69 Great Southern Country Zone contribution (invoice 378)	\$413.79
<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	<b>\$941.48</b>

The outstanding 2021/2022 contribution payment was overlooked / not advised during transition of the Zone's secretariat to WALGA in August 2022 and therefore should be paid at the earliest opportunity.

### Budget Implications:

The Great Southern Country Zone adopted its 2023/2024 Budget at its April 2023 meeting as follows:

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

The Budget did not include the Zone's contribution to the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group and it is noted that the May 2023 Zone Financial Report shows a current deficit of \$854.

It is recommended that the Zone's budget and member subscriptions are resubmitted to the Zone for review at the August meeting, to consider if the Zone's proposed 2023/2024 income will be sufficient to cover the 2022/2023 deficit and the additional costs of the Zone's contributions for 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 for membership of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group.

### RESOLUTION

Moved           President, Cr Michael White  
Seconded       Deputy President, Cr Jon Oldfield

That the Great Southern Country Zone:

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
2. Notes that the Zone's Budget and member subscription levies will be submitted for review at the August 2023 Zone meeting.

**CARRIED**



## **7.2. ZONE PRIORITY STRATEGIC ISSUES**

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

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*Cr Chris Pavlovich, Zone Chair*

The DAMA Working Group has been very busy since the last Great Souther Zone meeting and is happy to report the Business Case was submitted to the Department of Home affairs on the 30th May 2023 and the Department confirmed receipt the very next day.

The consultant, EY Global, expects to hear back from the Department around the end of June.

To build up this Business Case took a lot more work than I originally expected and thanks to the support of Working Group members in contacting local businesses, providing regional data, responding to dozens of emails and attending “MS-Teams” meetings. Special acknowledgement to Renee Tan from the GS RDA office in keeping us all in check and performing much more than the Designated Area Representative role requires.

WALGA though Lyn Fogg and Rick Murray have also been a great help in not only the administration but also in the financial controls in the EY engagement.

So far, we have come in under budget however the Department may require amendment or information and if so EY will need to undertake extra work. Subject to acquittal of costs associated with any additional work required, the unspent funding will be returned to the Zone member Local Government’s pro-rata to their contributions.

Now the word has spread our larger local businesses are very keen to peruse options through the DAMA so this has been a great initiative by the Great Southern Zone. The Minister for immigration has indicated he will be implementing immigration reform in the future so we hope this will not conflict with our mission.

**Noted.**

### **7.2.2. Regional Housing – Development WA land development funding assistance**

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*Lyn Fogg, Zone Executive Officer*

The State Government’s 2023-24 State Budget includes increased funding to DevelopmentWA’s [Regional Development Assistance Program](#), targeted to assist Local Governments to fund projects in regional towns, where there are either limited or no active private developers developing land for release to the local market.

RDAP funding assists Local Governments to develop land projects to stimulate local economic and social activity, including residential, industrial, commercial and tourism uses.

**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. Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 Review: Stage 3

*By Rebecca Brown, Manager Environment and Waste*

#### Attachment No. 6 [WALGA Draft Submission - BAM Act Review Stage 3](#)

##### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

##### BACKGROUND

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

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

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

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

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

1. Clarifying the role of the BAM Act
2. Working together to protect WA
3. Planning and reporting- vital to a better biosecurity system
4. Prioritising pests and diseases
5. Emergency powers- a necessary precaution
6. Compensation can boost biosecurity efforts

7. Enabling industries to act
8. Community-led pest management
9. Compliance with WA's biosecurity laws.

## Policy Implications

Current WALGA Advocacy Position: [4.5 Post Border Biosecurity](#)

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

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

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

## COMMENT

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

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

- The top priority reform areas (from the nine listed) for the Zone
- Any key reform areas which have been missed

- Feedback on WALGA's comments regarding the 21 Opportunities identified.

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

**Noted.**

### **7.3.2. WALGA State Award Working Group - Establishment**

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*By WALGA Employee Relations*

#### **BACKGROUND**

The WALGA Employee Relations team has established a State Award Working Group, for the purpose of obtaining sector feedback about:

- The unions' current and future claims to amend the [Local Government Officers' \(Western Australia\) Award 2021](#) (LGO Award) and the [Municipal Employees \(Western Australia\) Award 2021](#) (ME Award).
- The amendments to the State awards that are required by Local Government employers – including to develop an employer log of claims.
- The standard terms and conditions of employment in the Local Government sector.
- The constraints of the Local Government sector. For example, a Local Government's capacity to pay.

The Working Group's purpose is associated with employment arrangements for Local Government employees, therefore membership will be officer only (being an operational matter aligned with the CEO's functions under s.5.41 of the Local Government Act).

WALGA Employee Relations sought expressions of interest from Great Southern Country Zone CEO's, via:

- Expression of Interest letters sent to all CEO's on 9 May;
- ER Alert (email) distributed on 9 June
- Deadline to respond was extended to 14 June

At the close of nominations, only one nomination had been received from Great Southern Country Zone Local Governments, with the City of Albany's nomination of their Acting Manager People and Culture having now been accepted. The confirmed representatives will be notified to all Zone CEO's early next week.

Updates on this Working Group's activities will be provide to Zone CEO's and / or their nominated HR Manager via monthly State Award Modernisation Alerts (email) and engagement / feedback provided by the nominated representative.

**Noted.**

## **8. WALGA STATE COUNCIL BUSINESS**

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### **8.1. ZONE STATE COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT**

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*By Zone State Councillor: President Cr Chris Pavlovich*

*The State Councillor report was provided by Zone Chair, President Cr Chris Pavlovich at the conclusion of item 8.2.3.*

### **8.2. STATE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

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**Attachment No. 7** [State Council Agenda: 5 July 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**

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[State Council Agenda 5 July 2023](#) 'Matters for Decision' Items:

##### **STATE COUNCIL Item 7.1 Review of Urban Forest Advocacy Position**

###### Executive Summary

- It is proposed that the 2017 Advocacy Position 4.6 Urban Forestry be replaced with a new position that reflects Local Governments' urban forest advocacy priorities.
- The new position has been prepared in collaboration with the officers of the Local Government Urban Forest Working Group and has been endorsed by both the People and Place Policy Team and Environment and Waste Policy Team at a special joint meeting on 31 May 2023

###### Recommendation

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

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

- 1. Identify a lead agency with responsibility for setting the strategic direction and oversight of urban forest initiatives.***
- 2. In consultation with Local Government:***
  - a. Develop an Urban Forest Strategy, based on the overarching principles of a resilient, connected, expanded and equitable urban forest including:***
    - i. an overall tree canopy target for the Perth and Peel regions,***
    - ii. robust and contemporary data to inform decision making,***
    - iii. funding mechanisms to support growth in urban canopy.***
  - b. Develop contemporary legislative and policy mechanisms to enable the protection and growth of urban forest, including:***

- i. an effective and efficient regulatory mechanism that allows Local Government to consider the removal or alteration of a significant tree as a form of development.*
  - ii. prioritisation of trees and vegetation as a key structural element in the design of new neighbourhoods to facilitate climate resilient and liveable communities.*
  - iii. consideration of public realm design to maximise opportunities for tree retention and new planting consistent with any tree canopy targets.*
- 3. Work with Local Government and other stakeholders to increase community awareness and promote behaviour change in relation to urban forest growth and retention to support State and Local Government targets and action.**
- 4. Provide recurrent funding for a comprehensive and accessible Urban Greening Grant program to support Local Government investment in public realm planting, focusing on high urban heat areas and enhancing biodiversity outcomes.**

### **STATE COUNCIL Item 7.2 State Planning Policy 3.7 Bushfire**

#### Executive Summary

- State Planning Policy 3.7 Bushfire (SPP3.7) directs how land use and planning proposals should address bushfire risk in Western Australia. It applies to all land designated as bushfire prone, which is approximately 93% of the state.
- The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage has released a revised version of SPP3.7 and Planning for Bushfire Guidelines for public comment.
- Future changes to the Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas are planned that will create a revised mapping standard for lower risk areas, such as significantly built-up urban areas.
- The revised SPP 3.7 and Guidelines propose a nuanced response compared to the existing policy framework, with the intent of better reflecting the type of planning or development proposal and the level of bushfire risk.
- WALGA's submission generally supports the revised SPP3.7 and Guidelines. The more nuanced policy response better reflects the level of bushfire risk across the State and is a positive evolution of policy design. Several matters of concern and technical comments are raised in the submission.
- The public comment period closes on Monday, 17 July 2023

#### Recommendation

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

### **STATE COUNCIL Item 7.3 Reforming WA Disability Legislation Submission**

#### Executive Summary

- In March 2023, the Department of Communities (DoC) released the consultation paper 'Reforming WA Disability Legislation'.
- DoC is developing new disability legislation for Western Australia, largely driven by the State Disability Strategy 2020-2030 and the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.
- Under the current Disability Services Act 1993 (DSA), Local Governments are legislated to implement Disability Access and Inclusion Plans (DAIPs).

- WALGA has consulted with the sector and developed a submission with 11 key recommendations.
- The recommendations make the case for additional measures to support Local Governments implement DAIPs to deliver enhanced access and inclusion outcomes within local communities through standardized governance, training, support and funding

**Recommendation**

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

**STATE COUNCIL Item 7.4 Landfill Bans Advocacy Position**

**Executive Summary**

- The State Government has committed to delivering a state-wide E-waste ban to landfill by 2024, with the aim of improving management and recycling of e-waste produced by households and businesses across the State.
- Consultation has occurred on the proposed ban and a WALGA Submission on this matter was endorsed by State Council in March 2023.
- A key recommendation of this and previous WALGA Submissions is that any material subject to landfill bans must be covered by a fully effective product stewardship scheme prior to ban implementation.
- Without effective product stewardship arrangements in place for items covered under landfill bans, the burden of managing the product at end of life falls disproportionately to Local Governments.
- A new advocacy position is proposed that makes it clear that landfill bans are not supported in the absence of effective product stewardship schemes, or other funding mechanisms, for products which would be subject to the ban.
- A contemporary and clear advocacy position on landfill bans will enable WALGA to strongly discourage this policy approach and advocate to the Government for the range of conditions necessary to increase resource recovery and reduce disposal of material to landfill.

**Recommendation**

***That WALGA endorse the following Landfill Ban Advocacy Position:***

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

**STATE COUNCIL Item 7.5 Audit Experience Survey Results Summary and Advocacy Position**

**Executive Summary**

- In April, WALGA in partnership with LG Professionals WA conducted a survey of the Local Government sector to seek feedback on the annual audit process.
- A range of views were captured in the feedback, both positive and negative.
- The responses highlighted five key emerging issues in the audit process:
  - timeframe and delays;
  - additional workload on Local Government staff;
  - cost;
  - inconsistent advice from contract Auditors and the OAG; and
  - asset valuation requirements.

- WALGA and LG Professionals will continue to work with the OAG to reform the audit process in line with sector feedback, with a particular focus on those issues above..

### **Recommendation**

***That:***

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

## **STATE COUNCIL Item 7.6 Amendments to WALGA's Constitution**

### **Executive Summary**

- At its last meeting, State Council resolved for two sets of constitutional changes to be developed for consideration by State Council, with the intention that Members would consider both sets of amendments at the 2023 Annual General Meeting:
  - One set to give effect to the alternate model, as per the [Best Practice Governance Review Final Report](#); and
  - A second set to refine the current Constitution to address inconsistencies and other issues while maintaining the current governance model.
- The constitutional changes have been prepared by legal firm, Jackson McDonald.
- Amendments to the [Association Constitution](#) require both a special (75 percent) majority at State Council and a special (75 percent) majority at a General Meeting of Members.
- Consequently, if the proposed sets of amendments are endorsed by State Council, they will be put to the 2023 Annual General Meeting on Monday, 18 September.

### **Recommendation**

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

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

**VOTING REQUIREMENT: 75% SPECIAL MAJORITY**



## RESOLUTION

Moved: Deputy President Cr Jon Oldfield  
Seconded: Deputy President Cr Julie Leenhouders

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 Review of Urban Forest Advocacy Position
2. Item 7.2 State Planning Policy 3.7 Bushfire
3. Item 7.3 Reforming WA Disability Legislation Submission
4. Item 7.4 Landfill Bans Advocacy Position
5. Item 7.5 Audit Experience Survey Results Summary and Advocacy Position
6. Item 7.6 Amendments to WALGA's Constitution

CARRIED

### 8.2.2. Matters for Noting

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[State Council Agenda 5 July 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 – Submission to 2023 State Wage Case
- 9.2 Environmental Protection Amendment Regulations 2022: Consultation Response
- 9.3 Local Government Performance Monitoring Project
- 9.4 Street Lighting Tariffs
- 9.5 2023-24 Federal and State Budgets
- 9.6 Update on the Commencement of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021
- 9.7 State Award Variations Impacting on Local Governments

#### **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: Cr Janine Phillips  
Seconded: Cr Paul Terry

That the Great Southern Country Zone NOTES all Matters for Noting and Organisational Reports as detailed in the State Council Agenda 5 July 2023.

CARRIED

**MEETING NOTE:**

WALGA CEO, Mr Nick Sloan advised that he and the WALGA State President met with Minister Buti regarding the implementation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act, receiving appreciation for WALGA's work with members to prepare for implementation of new requirements. Mr Sloan confirmed however, that State Government was not contemplating delaying the 1 July implementation.

Zone representatives raised concerns regarding the impact of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act changes for the conduct of agricultural / farming activities.

Mr Sloan advised that these concerns should be directed through the relevant advocacy entity, as WALGA's advocacy is focused on supporting Local Governments to manage the impact on Local Government operations.

**8.2.3. WALGA State President's Report**

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**Attachment No. 8** WALGA State President's Report – circulated under separate cover

WALGA CEO, Mr Nick Sloan spoke to the WALGA State President's Report.

**RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Cr Janine Phillips**

**Seconded: Cr Paul Terry**

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

**CARRIED**

**State Councillor Report – Refer Item 8.1**

Zone Chair, President Cr Chris Pavlovich provided a report on the May 2023 State Council Meeting and spoke on the proposed WALGA constitutional changes, with some discussion from the floor.

The Zone Chair extended congratulations to WALGA State President, Cr Karen Chappel on her being appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2023 King's Birthday Honours list for her significant service to Local Government and to the community of Morawa.

## **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.*

### **9.1.1. 2023/24 Financial Assistance Grants – Early payment**

*By WALGA CEO, Mr Nick Sloan*

At the Australian Council of Local Governments last Friday the Prime Minister announced that the Government will be **bringing forward 100 per cent of the 2023-24 allocation of Financial Assistance (FA) Grants into 2022-23**, reflecting the complex financial environment all levels of government currently face, including the long term impacts of the pandemic.

This is a change to the arrangements announced in the 2023-24 Federal Budget, which would have seen 75 per cent of the 2023-24 Financial Assistance Grants advanced 'earlier in the financial year (2023-24) than would usually occur'.

Following the Budget, WALGA along with the National body (ALGA) and other State Associations, advocated strongly to the Treasurer for a continuation of the bring forward payment of FA Grants, which has been the established practice for more than a decade, under both Labor and Coalition Governments. Under these arrangements Local Governments have received 50 per cent of annual FA Grant payments brought forward as a lump sum at the end of the previous financial year, and in 2022-23 this was increased to 75 per cent to help manage the cumulative impacts of flood and the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is a good outcome, particularly for Local Governments that were relying on a bring forward. In our advocacy we stressed that for many Local Governments that have anticipated and developed budgets based on previous arrangements, not receiving this pre-payment would have a significant impact on cash flow, and especially for rural, remote and First Nations Local Governments that rely heavily on government grants.

I understand that Local Governments can expect to receive their payment by 30 June 2023.

### **9.1.2. Industrial Relations, Capital Works Cost Escalations, International Trade Relations – City of Albany**

*By Cr Paul Terry*

- The City of Albany is negotiating the City's Enterprise Bargaining Agreement for the first time under the State IR system, which has been referred to mediation. Expected to have significant labour cost implications for the Local Government.
- The City has recently received quotations evidencing a cost escalation of 20/30% for capital projects.
- The City recently received delegations from the Japanese Consulate and the Chinese Consul General, who both expressed interest in opening up new trade for quality products from the region.

### **9.1.3. Wind Farm Developments – Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup**

*By President Cr Michael White*

Heavy haulage associated with the development of wind farms has contributed to substantial damage to local roads, for which the Shire is now seeking damages from the company. The Shire recognises

that this is necessary infrastructure 'to keep the lights' on, but consider that more effort is required from State agencies and developers to better manage the impacts on local communities.

#### **9.1.4. Council Member Conflicts of Interest (CBH) – Shire of Cranbrook**

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*By CEO Linda Gray*

The Shire of Cranbrook has been working with CBH on the development of 'load-in facilities', which require Ministerial approvals for the majority of Council Members to participate and vote on these matters, due to Council Member conflicts of interest. It was noted this is an onerous process, that is required each time a Council decision is required.

#### **9.1.5. Bush Fire Mitigation Activity Funding – Shire of Denmark**

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*By A/CEO David King*

The Shire of Denmark received DFES funding for new firebreak works throughout the Shire, enabling mitigation works that would otherwise not be able to be undertaken. However funding is not provided to maintain these interventions and indicative maintenance costs for only these newly funded interventions was approximately \$100k p/annum. Maintenance of mitigation interventions was unsustainable for the Shire unless additional funding for maintenance purposes is provided.

#### **9.1.6. Cultural Heritage Session, Residential Blocks Available, CEO Resignation – Shire of Katanning**

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*By President Cr Liz Guidera*

- The Shire is hosting an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage information session on 29 June.
- Piesse Lake residential blocks have been released.
- Congratulations to the Shire of Katanning's CEO Julian Murphy who has resigned to take up the CEO's role at the Shire of Plantagenet.

#### **9.1.7. WALGA Convention Costs – Shire of Kojonup**

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*By Cr Alan Egerton-Warburton*

Enquired why WALGA convention registration costs were so high.

WALGA CEO Mr Sloan advised the convention is conducted on a cost recovery basis only – WALGA does not profit from the convention. Costs associated with convention staging include - venue hire and servicing, sound and lighting, catering, speaker costs, etc.

#### **9.1.8. Staff Attraction/Retention, Capital Works Costs, Activating Lazy Land – Shire of Plantagenet**

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*By President Cr Chris Pavlovich, A/CEO Gary Clark*

- Attraction and retention of qualified and experienced staff is an ongoing issue, with several current vacancies and impacts arising from long service leave and annual leave entitlements.
- Shire also experiencing substantial capital works cost escalations.
- Noted delays of up to 9-months for Western Power to provide quotes / cost estimates for headworks necessary to activate lazy land, which is impacting capacity to attract funding and investment. Western Power has now indicated that it will not quote for headworks unless there is a subdivision approval. Noted that Landgate approvals have similar delays and implications.

**9.1.9. Paleo Water Channel – Shire of Kojonup**

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*By CEO Ms Kelly Bartley*

CEO Ms Bartley advised that \$2.5M of water security funding has been allocated to the Shires of Woodanilling, Kojonup and West Arthur for the paleo water channel.

**10. NEXT ZONE MEETING**

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

- **25 August 2023 at the City of Albany**

**11. CLOSURE**

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 12.04pm.

## ATTACHMENTS

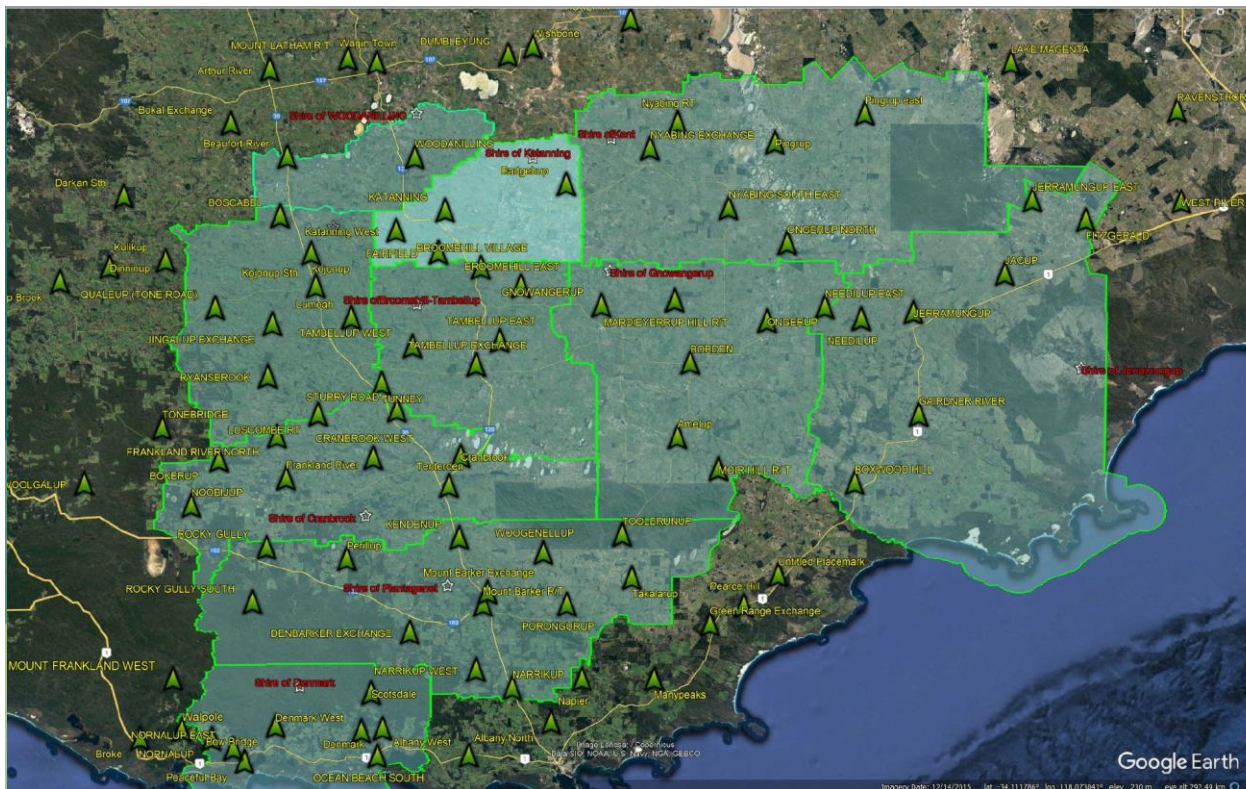
### Attachment No.1 – Item 4.2.1 Refers - Telstra Presentation

[Back to Item 4.2.1](#)



# WALGA- Great Southern Country Zone

June 2023

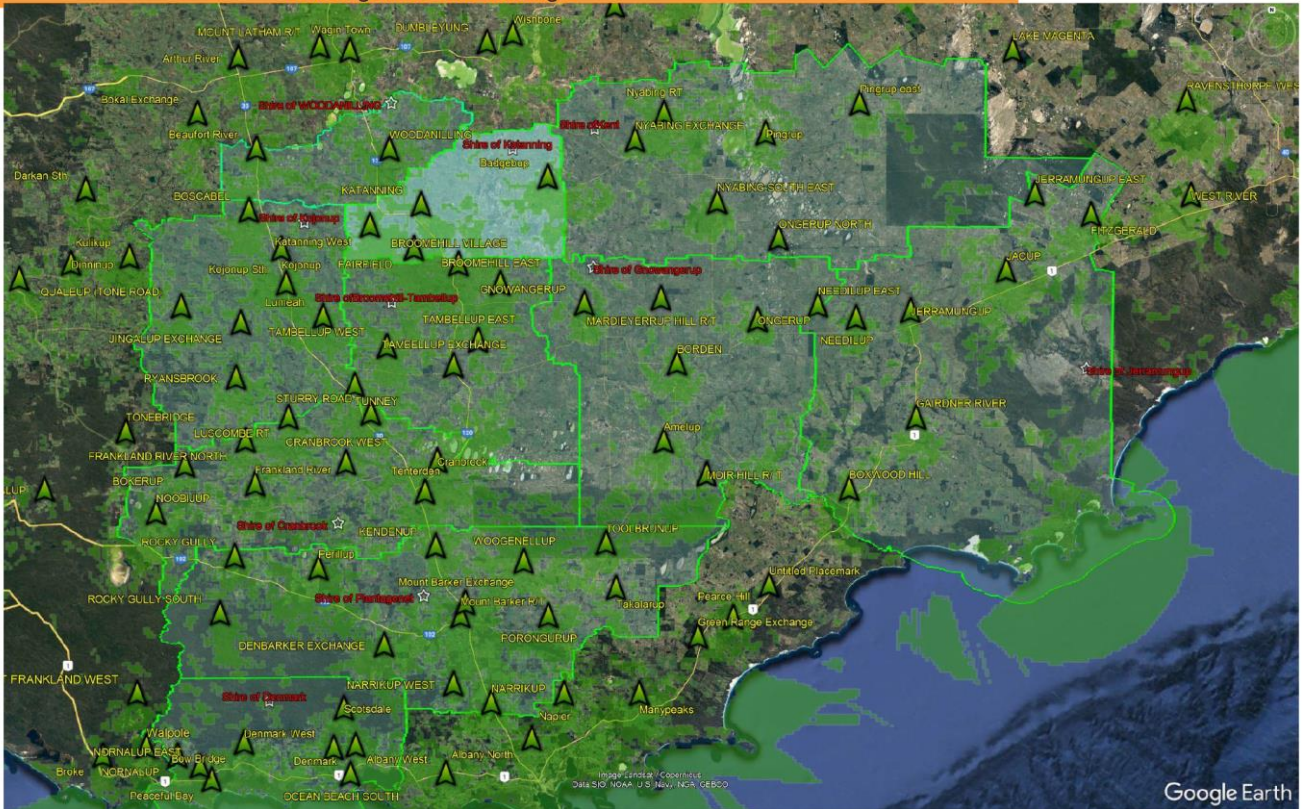


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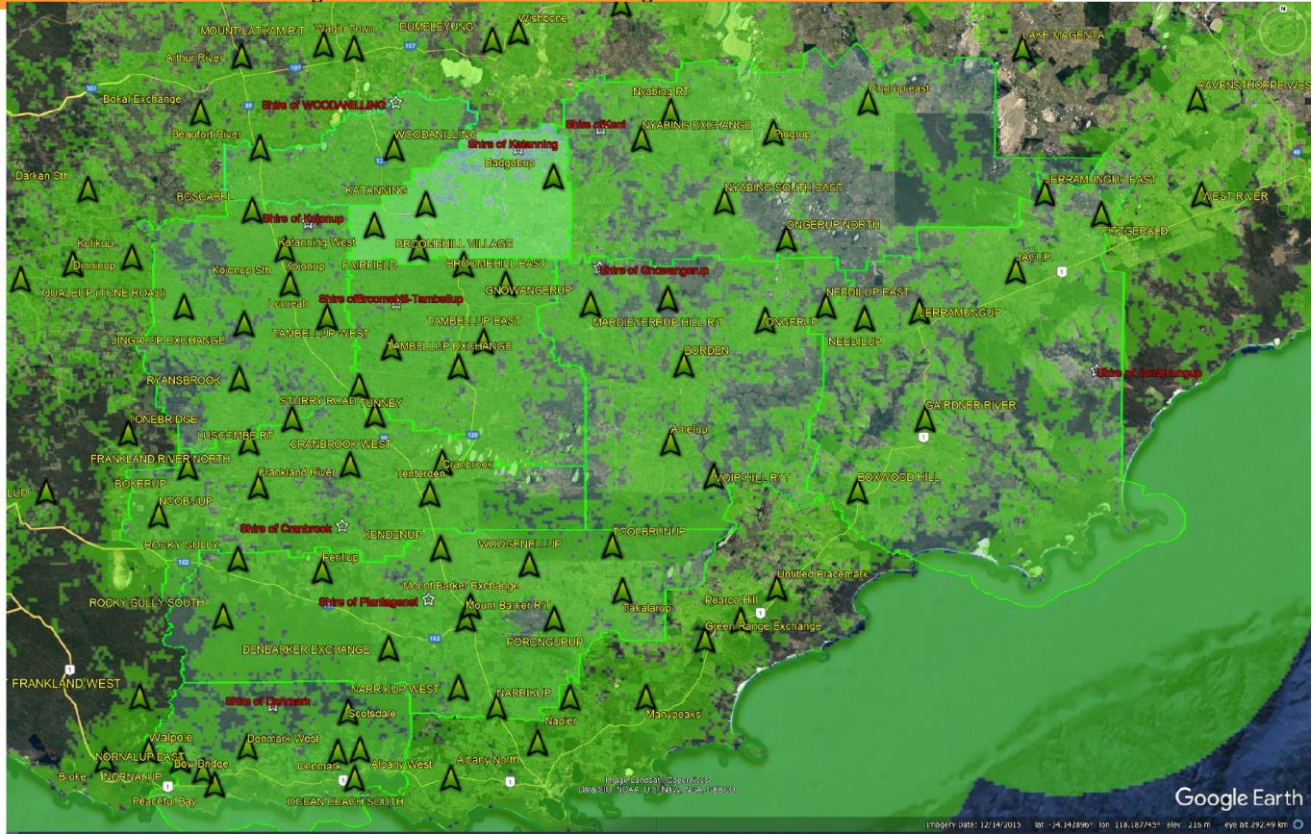


# ATTACHMENTS

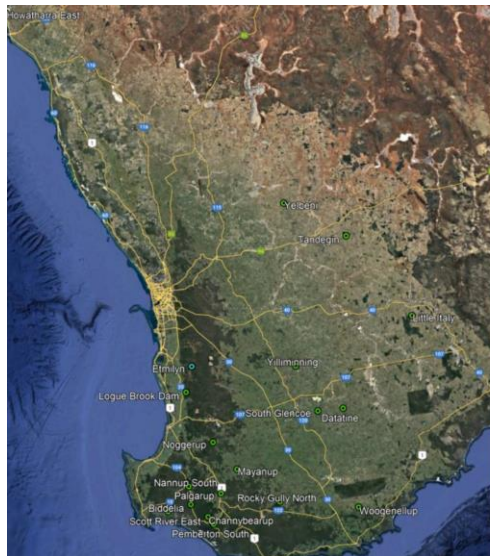
Existing HH LTE700 Coverage



Existing External Antenna LTE700 Coverage



## ATTACHMENTS



### Regional Connectivity Program (RCP) Round 3



MBSP/RCP	Site Name/Location
RCP	WOOGENELLUP Shire of Plantagenet
MBSP	ROCKY GULLY NORTH Shire of Plantagenet
MBSP	SOUTH GLENCOE Shire of Katanning

### Mobile Upgrades



- All sites within all shires boundaries have 4G L700.
- 5G 850 is planned to be deployed at Ocean Beach & Denmark West end 2023, early 2024
- Denmark town, Gnowangerup, battery reserve upgrade to 12h Dec this year, part of regional co-investment. Boscabel, Moir Hill, Table Hill, genset and power system upgrades.
- Takalarup was on air March this year built under the RCP program.
- Mt Barker on the hill in Jan 24 will have 5G 850
- Katanning- Jan this year BBH (BaseBandHotel) hotel a 5G hub for the surrounding sites to reduce TX delays impacts

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General

### Goodbye 3G... Closure 30 June 2024



We're evolving our mobile network to ensure that customers have the best possible experience.

- This means that on 30 June 2024 we're switching off our 3G network.
- Our 4G and 5G network will continue to operate and offer an improved experience, representing a leap forward in mobile technology.
- Customers will need to look at adapting devices including handsets, medical devices, EFTPOS machine, on-farm technology ahead of the 3G network closure.

#### How we are communicating to customers



Media updates



Radio



SMS



Telstra retail stores



Social Media



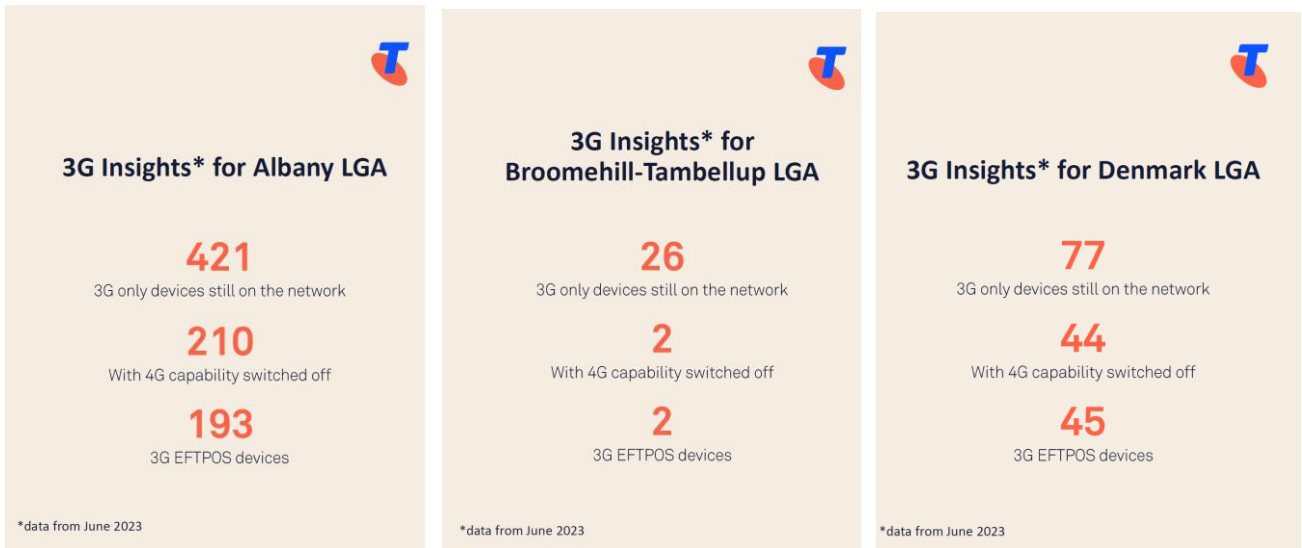
Direct Mail

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General

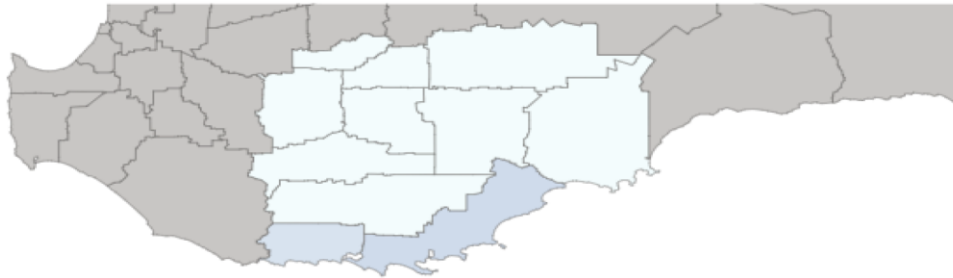


## ATTACHMENTS



## Mobile Capacity

% Congested 4G Sites by LGA



LGA	State	Total Sites	% Congested 4G Sites	% Impacted 4G Connected Users	% Congested 3G Sites	% Impacted 3G Connected Users
ALBANY	WA	20	15.0%	3.9%	12.5%	14.5%
BROOMEHILL-TAMBELLUP	WA	6	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	23.9%
CRANBROOK	WA	10	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
DENMARK	WA	9	11.1%	12.3%	42.9%	42.3%
GNOWANGERUP	WA	7	0.0%	0.0%	28.6%	32.4%
JERRAMUNGUP	WA	10	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	12.2%
KATANNING	WA	3	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
KENT	WA	5	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
KOJONUP	WA	7	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
PLANTAGENET	WA	12	0.0%	0.0%	18.2%	34.7%
WOODANILLING	WA	2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

## ATTACHMENTS

### Mobile Upgrades



Site Descriptor	SiteType	LGA	% Congested 4G Cells	% Congested 3G Cells	FY22 Status	Site On Air - Planned	Site On Air - Actual
ALBANY NORTH	3G - 4G	ALBANY	16.67%	0.00%	Full Build	22/06/2023	
MOUNT MELVILLE LOOKOUT	3G - 4G - 5G	ALBANY	5.56%	0.00%			
ALBANY- SPENCER PARK	3G - 4G - 5G	ALBANY	0.00%	0.00%	Full Build		13/08/2022
ALBANY ORANA	3G - 4G - 5G	ALBANY	0.00%	0.00%			
MOUNT ADELAIDE	3G - 4G - 5G	ALBANY	0.00%	0.00%	Full Build		8/12/2022
DENMARK	3G - 4G - 5G	DENMARK	8.33%	16.67%			
STIRLING RANGE (MOIR HILL)	3G - 4G - 5G	GNOWANGERUP	0.00%	16.67%	Full Build		16/02/2023
KALGAN	3G - 4G	ALBANY	33.33%	33.33%	Full Build	30/09/2023	
DENMARK WEST (MT SHADFORTH)	3G - 4G	DENMARK	0.00%	33.33%	Acquisition Only	28/07/2023	
NORNALUP EAST	3G - 4G	DENMARK	0.00%	33.33%			
PERILLUP	3G - 4G	PLANTAGENET	0.00%	33.33%			
MOUNT BARKER RT (NTA)	3G - 4G	PLANTAGENET	0.00%	37.50%	Full Build	4/01/2024	
ALBANY WEST	3G - 4G	ALBANY	0.00%	50.00%	Full Build	13/04/2024	
BREMER BAY (TOOREBURRUP HILL)	3G - 4G	JERRAMUNGUP	0.00%	50.00%	Full Build	19/07/2023	
TAMBELLUP EAST	3G - 4G	BROOMEHILL-TAMBELLUP	0.00%	50.00%			
MARDIEYERRUP HILL R/T	3G - 4G	GNOWANGERUP	0.00%	100.00%	Full Build	27/07/2023	

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General



### Benefits

-  Reduce fuel consumption
-  Simplify generator deployment process
-  Enables more effective pre-deployment before known events
-  Enables community support (as a last resort)
-  Improved visibility of asset performance during events

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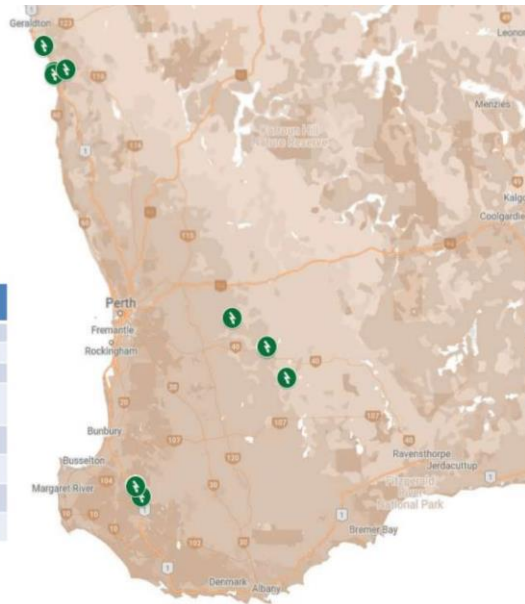
## ATTACHMENTS

### ATU Rollout Update

- The first 100 ATU's have been manufactured and are ready for deployment.
- 11 WA sites are currently on our program to install ATU's with 8 planned for completion in Q4 of FY23.



FY23	FY24
Dongara Exchange	Corrigin CMTS
Dongara CMTS	Bridgetown CMTS
Irwin Exchange	Greenbushes CMTS
Walkaway Exchange	<b>Additional sites still being planned</b>
Corrigin Exchange	
Kulin Exchange	
Quarading Exchange	
Greenbushes Exchange	



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General

### STAND: Portable Generators Albany, Denmark, Katanning



### Low Earth Orbit- LEO



## Telstra and OneWeb secure deal on new satellite solutions

By Amelia Norris  
Jun 19 2023  
12:23PM

0 Comments



Telstra and OneWeb have announced an agreement to roll-out of the satellite provider's Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite backhaul for a commercial mobile network.

The two companies have agreed commercial terms and later this year will begin moving hundreds of existing remote mobile base stations currently using satellite backhaul to OneWeb's LEO solution.

Telstra will also use OneWeb LEO services for future sites where satellite backhaul is the preferred or only viable option.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

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General

ATTACHMENT No.2 Refers Item 5.7 WALGA Roadwise Report

[Back to Item 5.7](#)

# WALGA RoadWise

## Regional Road Safety Advisor Report

Great Southern May-June 2023

### Supporting Local Government with Priority Road Safety Treatments

WALGA's RoadWise has recently released the latest edition of the *Road Safety Performance Reports* for Local Governments. The reports identify priority treatment areas for Local Governments based on the main killed and serious injury (KSI) crash types.

The priority treatment for the Great Southern remains **run-off road crash** as they represent half the KSI crashes in the region.

One of the key challenges facing Local Government in managing the risk of run-off road or head on crashes is that they can happen anywhere on the vast road network. The Great Southern has 12,479km of local road network, which equates to 89% of the region's roads that carries only 29% of total travel use.

Added to this is the low traffic volumes, unforgiving road conditions with two-way high-speed traffic, roadside hazards and limited safety features.



The most recent Road Safety Performance for Local Government Roads Great Southern Report 2016-2020 is now available. Please contact Vivienne Gardiner, Road Safety Advisor [vgardiner@walga.asn.au](mailto:vgardiner@walga.asn.au) for a copy.

### High Speed Local Roads Safety Project

The Royal Automobile Association (RAC) has partnered with WA Local Government Association (WALGA), Main Roads WA and Australian Road Research Board (ARRB) to develop a business case for funding low-cost safety treatments that can be applied to the Local Government managed regional roads to reduce KSI crash risk.

ARRB has been commissioned to review up to 10,000km of sealed high-speed roads managed by local governments. A total of 482 Local Government managed roads have been shortlisted.

The proposed countermeasures include lane widening, centre and edge line delineation, shoulder sealing, audio tactile line marking, wide centreline treatment and hazard removal.

## ATTACHMENTS

Local Governments are being consulted regarding the nominated roads within their jurisdiction and it is anticipated the business case will be submitted to the Australian Government in May/June 2023.

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### Tackling Road Safety Together – Great Southern Road Safety Conference 2023

Congratulations to the Shire of Cranbrook for hosting the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Southern Road Safety Conference, Tackling Road Safety Together.

The annual event brought together approximately 45 road safety stakeholders from across the Great Southern Region.

Shire of Cranbrook CEO Linda Gray opened the event with local Noongar Elder Marie Eades Welcoming us to Country and Great Southern Police Superintendent Paul Coombes providing the welcome address.

The Conference covered a range of topics including:

- Road Safety Ratings for Local Government Roads Project Pilot with the City of Albany
- Road Safety for our Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Community for the Katanning Community
- Black Spot Program Review by Main Roads WA
- The First Responder Training Program for novice drivers, a community-based initiative by St John Ambulance
- Road Safety Demonstration Project and Road Traffic Safety Policy with Shire of Manjimup.

The keynote address was provided by Jimmy Murphy the founder of Town Teams Movement and this year's WA recipient of the Australia Day Local Hero Award. Jimmy spoke about the 'Community-led traffic calming in Mullalyup' and a partnership with the RAC and Road Safety Commission to expand the Town Teams Program to continue to address traffic calming through a placemaking approach.

The day concluded with a lively panel discussion 'Is reducing the speed limit an option for reducing Killed or Serious Injury Crashes'.

A replay of the conference is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dd6qjWjEUx4>.



## ATTACHMENTS

### Australasian Road Safety Conference – Rural Scholarship

The Australasian Road Safety Conference is being held in Cairns between the 19-21 September 2023.

The Conference aims to facilitate collaboration and information sharing between road safety stakeholders and decision-makers from Australasia and beyond.

**Regional and Rural Scholarships applications are now open to Local Government employees.**

To nominate for a scholarship please visit the Australasian Road Safety Conference website <https://australasianroadsafetyconference.com.au/regional-rural-scholarships/>.



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### 2023 Local Government Road Safety Awards

The Local Government Road Safety Awards are a joint initiative of the WA Local Government Association's RoadWise and the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia – Western Australia Division. The Awards acknowledge achievements by Local Governments in the area of road safety and recognise contributions to safe system implementation including innovation in engineering countermeasures, policy and local road safety partnerships.

The nomination period is now open. For further information about the Awards and submitting nominations, contact your Regional Road Safety Advisor, contact details can be found on the RoadWise website [www.roadwise.asn.au/local-government/road-safety-in-your-area](http://www.roadwise.asn.au/local-government/road-safety-in-your-area).

**Nominations close - Friday, 30 June 2023**

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### For more information:

Vivienne Gardiner, Regional Road Safety Advisor  
T: 0418 904 081      [E: vgardiner@walga.asn.au](mailto:vgardiner@walga.asn.au)

## ATTACHMENTS

### ATTACHMENT No. 3 Refers Item 5.8 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Update April 2023

[Back to Item 5.8](#)



## Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Report

May 2023

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### 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.
- The following provisions have taken effect on assent for the Act:
  - the ability of a local government to apply for a compliance exemption
  - parental leave provisions for council members
  - removal of the ability for a council to waive an interest arising from an electoral gift
  - changes to special electors' meetings to increase the number of signatures to 300 from 100 and allow a Mayor or President to direct that a special electors' meeting not be held on the same subject more than once in a 12 month period.
- A number of electoral reforms, including optional preferential voting and backfilling extraordinary vacancies, will take effect for the 2023 elections.
- 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.
- DLGSC is running a series of monthly webinars and deep dives into specific topics regarding the reforms in the upcoming months.
- The next webinar is scheduled for 1 June on upcoming ward and representation changes for local governments - look out for LG Alerts for more details.
- If you would like a link to recordings of previous webinars, this is available on the [DLGSC website under local government reforms](#)
- DLGSC has also teamed up with LG Pro to deliver a series of capacity-building webinars. The next webinar is scheduled for 31 May.

### Model Financial Statements (MFS) and Financial 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.
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## ATTACHMENTS

- Contact LG Accounting for queries – [lgaccounting@dlgsc.wa.gov.au](mailto: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](mailto:actreview@dlgsc.wa.gov.au)

### Early Intervention – Governance in the Western Australia Local Government Sector and DLGSC's Role

- DLGSC is replacing its Local Government Compliance Framework (developed in 2011) by adopting a new Local Government Regulatory Approach (Regulatory Approach).
- The Regulatory Approach is the primary framework that DLGSC will use to manage good governance across the local government sector by:
  - fostering best practice through:
    - capability building;
    - compliance guidance; and
    - standard setting;
  - understanding performance through:
    - intelligence gathering and analysis;
    - compliance reviews and audits;
    - consultation and support;
  - ensuring compliance through:



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- targeted assistance;
  - investigation; and
  - enforcement.
- The Regulatory Approach:
    - reflects contemporary regulatory practices and all amendments to the Local Government Act 1995;
    - clearly defines DLGSC's local government regulation and support objectives, deliverables, and targets;
    - is cognisant of the reforms currently being considered and ensures DLGSC meets its obligations under the Local Government Act 1995; and
    - provides for a clear commitment to early intervention, effective regulation supported by stronger penalties as part of the reforms to the Local Government Act 1995.
    - has been developed in consideration of best practice for anticipating and mitigating risk.
  - DLGSC's approach is focused on oversight and intervention where there are significant problems arising within a local government, and is supported by DLGSC's early intervention actions to address problems and dysfunction more quickly within local governments.
  - As part of the reforms to the Act, the second tranche of reforms focuses on enhancing good governance in the local government sector by introducing the new Local Government Inspector and Monitors, with legislated powers for:
    - early intervention actions supported by DLGSC;
    - monitoring of local governments and councils;
    - providing statutory enforceable directions;
    - undertaking investigations;
    - determining complaints and issuing infringements; and
    - undertaking enforcement actions.
  - Current examples of DLGSC's early intervention actions can be seen with:
    - City of Swan
    - City of Melville
  - DLGSC's is focusing on early intervention with local governments that are not operating to the required governance standard. The early intervention model allows DLGSC to engage with at risk local governments to:
    - identify governance issues;
    - facilitate the local governments to accept that the governance issues have the real potential to cause dysfunction;
    - facilitate the local government to develop and implement good governance plans; and
    - provide regular contact and monitoring of a local government's progress in implementing good governance practices.
  - One governance challenge that the local government sector is facing is meeting the requirements of the Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021 that obligate local governments to self-regulate low-level council member behavioural conduct issues. Whilst these issues are low-level, they can have significant detrimental impact on council member relationships and without strong leadership on council, have the potential to escalate resulting in council dysfunction. The DLGSC is researching appropriate models to better advise and support local governments in managing these issues.
  - The DLGSC applies a risk-based approach in respect of the support and intervention actions, applied on a relative scale, in engaging with local governments. As part of this approach, DLGSC obtains financial, compliance and conduct information and statistics from all local governments, which when interpreted holistically indicate a local government's performance level.
  - The performance indicator information related to each local government is published on the MyCouncil website at: <https://www.mycouncil.wa.gov.au/> with the intention to expand the
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## ATTACHMENTS

information reported to allow deeper analysis and a better understanding of individual local government performance and on a sector level.

### 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.

### DLGSC Contacts

LG Support and Engagement	<a href="mailto:lghotline@dlgsc.wa.gov.au">lghotline@dlgsc.wa.gov.au</a>
LG Policy and Legislation	<a href="mailto:legislation@dlgsc.wa.gov.au">legislation@dlgsc.wa.gov.au</a>
CRS – Stop Puppy Farming	<a href="mailto:puppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au">puppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au</a>
Grants Commission – Financial Assistance Grants	<a href="mailto:Grants.commission@dlgsc.wa.gov.au">Grants.commission@dlgsc.wa.gov.au</a>
LG accounting enquiries	<a href="mailto:LG.accounting@dlgsc.wa.gov.au">LG.accounting@dlgsc.wa.gov.au</a>
LG Act reform	<a href="mailto:actreview@dlgsc.wa.gov.au">actreview@dlgsc.wa.gov.au</a>

## ATTACHMENTS

### ATTACHMENT No.4 Refers Item 6.2 Great Southern Country Zone Status Report – June 2023

[Back to item 6.2](#)

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Grt Southern C	17 February 2023 Zone Agenda Item 5.9. <b>National Recovery and Resilience Agency</b>	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 <a href="mailto:iduncan@walga.asn.au">iduncan@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2031
Grt Southern C	25 November 2022 Zone Agenda Item 6 <b>Confirmation of Previous Minutes</b>	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 <a href="mailto:iduncan@walga.asn.au">iduncan@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2031
Grt Southern C	25 November 2022 Zone Agenda Item 6.2 <b>Zone Status Report</b>	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 <a href="mailto:iduncan@walga.asn.au">iduncan@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2031
Grt Southern C	25 November 2022 Zone Agenda Item 6.2 <b>Zone Status Report</b>	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.	This is consistent with existing advocacy priorities. Delays in the reporting system is one of the matters identified by Local Governments for resolution.	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure <a href="mailto:iduncan@walga.asn.au">iduncan@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2031

## ATTACHMENTS

### ATTACHMENT No.5 Refers Item 6.2.1 Great Southern Country Action Items Report – June 2023

[Back to Item 6.2.1](#)

Great Southern Country Zone – ACTION ITEMS				
ZONE MEETING DATE / ITEM	ZONE RESOLUTION	ZONE RESPONSE	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
<b>2023, 17 Feb</b> Item 5.5. Great Southern Human Resources Forum	ACTION REQUIRED: Zone CEOs to advise the Zone Executive Officer if they wish to nominate a suitable senior officer that has responsibilities in community development / services.	Zone CEO's emailed on 4 April, requesting nomination by 12 April, for inclusion in the April Agenda Zone Resolution 21 April 2023 – Item 5.5: <i>That the Great Southern Country Zone nominates Michaela Crosby (Shire of Kent) as its Delegate, and Jenny Cristinelli (Shire of Cranbrook) as its proxy delegate, to the Great Southern Human Services Forum for the period that the delegate holds their current employment with the nominating Local Government or until October 2025 (whichever occurs first).</i>	<b>COMPLETED</b> GSCZ 21/04/2023 – 5.5	Zone Executive Officer Lyn Fogg
<b>2023, 17 Feb</b> Item 6.2 Zone Resolution Status Rpt	That the Great Southern Country Zone: 2. REQUESTS Telstra to provide a presentation (April or July Zone Meeting) on the network upgrade planning and works program.	A request has been lodged with Telstra for a presentation to the June Zone meeting (Shire of Plantagenet) addressing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update of Telstra's forward planning schedule to address communication blackspots, including use of LEO satellite services; and</li> <li>Decommissioning of the 3G networks, implications for the Great Southern Region.</li> </ul> <p>Telstra's Boyd Brown, Regional General Manager WA and Michael Heydon, Regional Community Engagement Manager are to present at the Zone meeting held 23 June 2023</p>	<b>COMPLETED</b> GSCZ-23/06/23-4.2.1	Zone Executive Officer Lyn Fogg
<b>2022, 28 Oct</b> Item 7.1.3 Great Southern Zone Roads Committee	That the Great Southern Roads Report be received and the \$4000.00 per Zone Local Government funding request be forwarded to all Local Governments for their consideration and that a formal request be made to the Great Southern Development Commission as well as RDA Great Southern.	08/11/2022 Emailed Zone Members and CEO's requesting action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Road Data Collection funding contribution requested</b> (Great Southern Roads Committee) – Local Governments will need to consider a request for a contribution of \$4000 (each) – refer resolution at Item 7.1.3 in the attached minutes.</li> </ul> <p><b>21 April 2023: MRWA confirmed at the Regional Road Group meeting that funding allocation has been made for the GS Secondary Freight Network and a portion will be used to enable</b></p>	<b>COMPLETED</b> GSCZ-23/06/23-7.1.4	Zone Executive Officer Lyn Fogg

## ATTACHMENTS

Great Southern Country Zone – ACTION ITEMS				
ZONE MEETING DATE / ITEM	ZONE RESOLUTION	ZONE RESPONSE	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
		<b>MRWA to facilitate preparation of the Business Case in consultation with the GS Regional Roads Group.</b>		
<b>2022, 28 Oct</b> Item 7.2.4 Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) Project	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.	<b>21 April 2023:</b> Phase 1 and 2 of the EY consultancy have been completed – refer DAMA Working Group and RDAGS reports at the April 2023 meeting. <b>23 June 2023</b> – 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.	IN PROGRESS	Kojonup CEO RDAGS CEO
<b>2022, 26 Aug</b> Item 7.2.1 Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA)	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.  <u>DAMA Working Group Charter:</u> 1. Recommending the committed Local Government’s consult with their respective industries on skill shortages and gather supporting evidence by Friday, 23 Sept 2022. 2. (a) Review the other WA DAMA business cases and their learnings to determine our process and next steps; and (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. 3. Prepare the final report with recommendations for the next Great Southern Country Zone meeting on Friday, 28 October 2022.  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)	Working Group Terms of Reference conclude as at 28 October 2022.  <b>GSCZ 28/10/2022</b> - refer item 7.2.4 -Resolution to extend Charter: 10. 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.  <b>23 June 2023</b> – 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.	ONGOING	DAMA Working Group (Zone)

## ATTACHMENTS

Great Southern Country Zone – ACTION ITEMS				
ZONE MEETING DATE / ITEM	ZONE RESOLUTION	ZONE RESPONSE	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
2022, 26 Aug Item 7.3.2 Reliable Digital Connectivity / Telecommunications	Action (GSCZ 24/06/2022): Each Zone council to discuss and prioritise key outcomes to be achieved to improve telecommunications in regional areas and report back to the Zone.  Action (GSCZ 26/08/2022): If Local Governments could respond by 31 October 2022, so that this issue can be considered at the November 2022 meeting.	<b>GSCZ 28/10/2022 Item 7.2.2</b> - Responses received: - Denmark, Gnowangerup, Kent, Resolved: 1. That Local Governments identify to the Zone Executive Officer at least one priority digital / telecommunications blackspot area within their District, supported by evidence and justification, to enable a targeted advocacy to be undertaken.  <b>GSCZ 21 April 2023 Item 7.2.2 – GS Development Commission tabled a list of GS Telecommunications Blackspots collated in 2022.</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b> GSCZ-21/04/2023- 7.2.2	ZONE MEMBER LGs
2022, 26 Aug Item 10.6 Great Southern Roads Sub-Committee	3. That the Great Southern Country Zone WALGA formally request from Co-operative Bulk Handling a copy of their prioritized list of routes for the Great Southern Region.  4. That the Great Southern Council Zone WALGA formally request from Bunge Grain Services a copy of their Prioritised list of routes for the Great Southern Region.	<b>Resolution 3:</b> Rob Dickie, CBH Head of Government and Industry Relations advised 07/10/2022: ~ CBH has provided advice to the Secondary Freight Group regarding priority roads. ~ CBH is unable to extract / provide additional data (to that already provided) as they are already in 'harvest' ~ CBH suggest that the State Government's Revitalising Agricultural Region Freight Strategy, may assist the Zone. <a href="https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/Freight-Ports/revitalising-agricultural-region-freight-strategy.asp">https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/Freight-Ports/revitalising-agricultural-region-freight-strategy.asp</a> <b>Resolution 4:</b> Emailed request to Bunge Group Logistics, Steve Camarri on 07/10/2022. Awaiting response  <b>21 April 2023: MRWA confirmed at the Regional Road Group meeting that funding allocation has been made for the GS Secondary Freight Network and a portion will be used to enable MRWA to facilitate preparation of the Business Case in consultation with the GS Regional Roads Group.</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b> GSCZ-23/06/23- 7.1.4	Lyn Fogg Zone Executive Officer
2022, 22 Apr Item 8.2	<b>Sub-Committee Terms of Reference:</b> 1. 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	<b>28 Oct 2022:</b> Zone Executive consulted with the 'Sub-Committee' Chair, who confirmed transition to the name 'Great Southern Roads Committee'. Zone Agenda template updated.	ONGOING to 30 June 2024	

## ATTACHMENTS

Great Southern Country Zone – ACTION ITEMS				
ZONE MEETING DATE / ITEM	ZONE RESOLUTION	ZONE RESPONSE	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
Creation of the Great Southern Roads Sub-Committee	<p>freight task and road safety and efficiency perspective both now and in the next 20 years.</p> <p>2. 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.</p> <p>3. Co-opt members as required to fulfil the above task as there will be outside technical expertise required from time to time.</p> <p>4. Report progress of sub-committee to the Great Southern Zone of WALGA at each of its meetings.</p> <p>5. Finalise a report for publishing prior to the end of 2023-24 financial year.</p> <p>6. <b>Group to cease operations on 30 June 2024.</b></p> <p><b>Members:</b> 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>			

**ATTACHMENTS**



# Biosecurity Management in Western Australia

Stage 3 of the statutory review of  
the *Biosecurity and Agriculture  
Management Act 2007*

Draft Submission

June 2023

## Acknowledgement

*The WA Local Government Association (WALGA) acknowledges the many traditional owners of the land on which we work throughout Western Australia. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. WALGA acknowledges the continuing knowledge and cultural practices that they bring to the Local Government and biosecurity management sectors to support resilient and sustainable land management.*

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# Introduction

Local Government plays a key role in biosecurity management in Western Australia. Local Governments' involvement in biosecurity ranges from assisting with early detection and reporting of pests and diseases, participating in State responses to biosecurity incursions, managing declared pests on lands owned under State law, working in partnership with Recognised Biosecurity Groups on control activities for declared pests, developing and enforcing pest management local laws, and supporting community groups to implement management actions for pests and diseases. It does this through organisational leadership, building and utilising strong networks and partnerships with stakeholders, and delivering on-ground action.

The *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act) came into effect in May 2013 with the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Regulations 2013*. The Minister for Agriculture and Food has responsibility for administering the Act and is required to carry out a review every ten years from commencement.

In March 2022, the State Government appointed an independent [review panel](#) to undertake the statutory review. The panel has been tasked with assessing the extent to which the BAM Act provides a fit-for-purpose, efficient and effective legal framework to underpin a world class biosecurity system, and related agricultural management, for Western Australia.

The review is being undertaken in a three stage public consultation process:

- **Stage 1 identify themes** invited open submissions on key issues relevant to the review of the BAM Act, and occurred from 16 June to 27 July 2022. A total of 113 submissions were received from a diverse range of stakeholders, including government representatives, community groups, NGOs and landholders. WALGA submitted a [Discussion Paper](#) that identified 11 key biosecurity management themes for the Local Government sector, and met with the review panel on 5 September 2022 to discuss these further.

Key points from the Stage 1 consultation period included:

- the BAM Act is working well but has inconsistency in application, and uncertainty about roles and responsibilities
  - border biosecurity is addressed well
  - the risk and impact of harmful pests, weeds and diseases in WA is growing, with some improvement in management needed
  - WA's biosecurity system is not appropriately balanced to deliver social, environmental and economic outcomes, with a focus on agricultural management
  - more work needs to be done to achieve compliance
  - improved efficiencies, resourcing and funding for biosecurity are needed
  - biosecurity communication and education are needed
  - Recognised Biosecurity Groups funded by declared pest rates may not be the best way of supporting a community-led approach.
- **Stage 2 explore themes** considered the range of issues identified during Stage 1, and selected four key themes that stakeholders saw as important to explore in more detail:

- 1 **principles to underpin WA's biosecurity**, including biosecurity in all contexts and shared responsibility
- 2 **legal foundations of WA's biosecurity**, including prioritising pests, weeds and diseases, and enabling industry and community action
- 3 **planning, coordinating and resourcing WA's biosecurity system**, including responsibilities and timing
- 4 **community-led pest and weed management**, including the Declared Pest Rate and Recognised Biosecurity Groups.

Stage 2 delved into the challenges and asked questions on what could be improved to inform the development of options and solutions. Feedback was sought through discussions with the review panel, workshops with DPIRD staff, and an online survey between 27 October and 4 December 2022.

WALGA participated in a policy workshop on the Declared Pest Rate and Recognised Biosecurity Groups on 20 September 2022.

WALGA partnered with DPIRD to host a consultation workshop for the sector on 24 November 2022, with Local Governments from across the State providing input.

- **[Stage 3 solutions and reporting](#)** presents legislative and non-legislative reform opportunities identified during the previous stages together with additional research in a **[Discussion Paper](#)**, and is open for feedback for five weeks until 30 June 2023.

There are nine areas identified for reform, with desired outcomes and ways in which these might be achieved outlined for each. The feedback will help the review panel finalise its recommendations to the Minister later in 2023.

The discussion paper does not address matters relating to technical amendments raised by stakeholders during the consultation process to date, however these will be included in the review panels final report to the Minister.

## Purpose of this Draft Submission

This draft submission summaries the nine areas for reform, target outcomes and suggested improvements identified in Stage 3 Discussion Paper. Alignment of the target outcomes with the WALGA Biosecurity Advocacy Position, and potential benefits or issues for the reform opportunities, are outlined.

As well as responding to **[Stage 3 of the BAM Act Review directly](#)**, **Local Governments are also strongly encouraged to provide WALGA with feedback on the opportunities for reform by COB, Monday 26 June via [environment@walga.asn.au](mailto:environment@walga.asn.au)**. The feedback received will be incorporated into WALGA's Stage 3 submission to the BAM Act Review on behalf of the sector.

Further information on how to submit a response is provided in Section 6 of this paper.

# ***Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007***

The BAM Act and associated regulations are the legal framework that supports biosecurity and agriculture management for the Western Australia by providing the essential powers and duties that enable:

- leadership in the biosecurity system
- shared responsibility, including funding arrangements and cost recovery for some areas of biosecurity
- surveillance for pests, weeds and diseases
- prevention and timely responses to incursions
- long-term management of pests, weeds and diseases that have established in WA
- management of the sale and use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals.

In December 2013, an assessment by the Office of the Auditor General, [\*Managing the Impact of Plant and Animal Pests: A State-wide Challenge\*](#) found that the BAM Act was failing to achieve state-wide pest management, due to the lack of an integrated approach across the State, lack of clearly defined roles and responsibilities of government agencies, limited monitoring of pests and no enforcement of the regulations, among other reasons.

The State Government responded to the Auditor General's report by developing the [\*Invasive Species Plan for Western Australia 2015-2019\*](#) and the [\*Western Australian Biosecurity Strategy 2016-2025\*](#).

The WA Biosecurity Strategy sets the overall direction for the management of emerging and ongoing biosecurity issues within the State, and is underpinned by three principles:

- biosecurity is a shared responsibility
- effective risk management underpins decision making
- policies and programs are transparent, consistent and evidence based.

In 2020, the [\*Auditor General conducted a follow-up audit\*](#) which found that State Government had not effectively addressed all the findings from the 2013 audit, although some progress had been made.

## **WALGA biosecurity advocacy position**

WALGA's current Biosecurity Advocacy Position was endorsed in December 2022 and replaces the previous positions from 2017 and 2006. It was developed following sector consultation on WALGA's Discussion Paper for Stage 1 of the BAM Act Review. The draft Advocacy Position was considered in November 2022 by each of the 12 Country and 5 Metropolitan Zones in WA, which are groups of geographically aligned member Local Governments responsible for providing input into policy formulation. State Council then endorsed the Advocacy Position at the meeting on 7 December 2022.

WALGA's Advocacy Position 4.5 Post Border Biosecurity states:

*Western Australia's economy, environment and the community are facing increasing challenges posed by already established and new pests, weeds and diseases.*

*Local Government has a significant role in biosecurity management, as land managers and regulators, and therefore has an interest in ensuring that Western Australia's biosecurity system, including control of declared pests, is effective and appropriately resourced.*

*WALGA considers significant changes to the operation of the State's biosecurity system, including the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007, are required to ensure these risks can be managed now and into the future.*

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

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

- 7) *Facilitate the use of new technologies, strategic monitoring, and the establishment of data management systems to inform biosecurity investment decisions and support adaptive management.*
- 8) *Improve the community's understanding, awareness and action in relation to biosecurity to assist with threat surveillance and timely response to incursions.*

## Biosecurity reform areas

Stage 3 of the BAM Act Review sets out nine priority reform areas:

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

Within these nine reform areas, there are 21 opportunities identified to clarify, strengthen and support a strengthened biosecurity system in WA.

WALGA has reviewed the nine reform areas, the target outcomes and the suggested opportunities for improvement. Alignment of the target outcomes with the WALGA Biosecurity Advocacy Position, and anticipated benefits or issues for the reform opportunities, are outlined in **Table 1**.

WALGA is seeking feedback on the benefits and issues of the proposed reform opportunities, as well any additional important considerations that Local Governments would like to see included.

The [Stage 3 Discussion Paper](#) outlines several significant legislative and non-legislative changes to the current biosecurity management arrangements:

- The establishment of a formal biosecurity body, with representatives from all biosecurity system participants, to provide strategic leadership for biosecurity through the development and oversight of a plan for the collaborative management and prioritisation of investment in pests and diseases across WA.
- A simplified framework and assessment process for 'biosecurity matter', which would be further defined as prohibited, restricted or permitted matter based on the level of risk presented to WA to replace the current assessment and declaration of individual organisms as unlisted, permitted, prohibited or declared pests.
- The Declared Pest Rate would change to a uniform *ad valorem* rating structure applied to the entirety of WA to land of sufficient size, and retain the State Government legislated dollar-for-dollar matching of funds raised. The pooled funds would be apportioned to priority pest management and compliance programs by the formal biosecurity body, with direction from local/regional levels, and also provide base-level funding for coordinating local/regional pest management activities.



- The range of pest management entities that are eligible to receive pooled funds would be broadened from Recognised Biosecurity Groups to include Local Government, regional NRM groups, Landcare and Aboriginal groups, and others, with co-contributions required from funding recipients.
- The scope of Local Government local laws will be expanded to apply to any widespread and established pest animal or plant.

**Table 1:** Review of Biosecurity Reform Areas

Reform Area 1: Clarifying the role of the BAM Act					
Review panel key outcomes (what we need to achieve)	WALGA's extent of agreement with outcomes*	Alignment with WALGA's Biosecurity Advocacy Position	Review panel's identified opportunities for reform to achieve outcomes	WALGA's response on the importance of pursuing this opportunity for reform**	WALGA's identified benefits or issues with the reform opportunities
The Act has clear Objects	Agree	N/A	<p><b>Opportunity 1</b> is to clarify the legislative framework by defining biosecurity to encompass agriculture management outcomes currently provided for in the Act, including chemical products and residues on land.</p> <p><b>Opportunity 2</b> is to amend the objects of the BAM Act to describe the contexts to which biosecurity applies, provide for risk-based decision making, include biosecurity emergencies, and reference intergovernmental agreements.</p> <p><b>Opportunity 3</b> is to identify all biosecurity system participants, including Aboriginal peoples.</p>	Neutral	<p><b>Opportunity 2 benefit:</b> a greater focus on environmental biosecurity will reduce ecological impacts and help reverse Australia's ongoing decline in biodiversity.</p> <p><b>Opportunity 3 benefit:</b> Partnering with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people add valuable cultural and ecological knowledge in the management of biosecurity issues.</p>
The Act anticipates increasing biosecurity risk and complexity	Agree	Yes (Statement 3)		Very important	
The Act strengthens WA's contribution to Australia's biosecurity system	Agree	Yes (Statement 1)		Very important	

\*Strongly disagree, disagree, neither agree nor disagree, agree, strongly agree

\*\*Not important at all, low importance, neutral, important, very important

Reform Area 2: Working together to protect WA					
Review panel key outcomes (what we need to achieve)	WALGA's extent of agreement with outcomes*	Alignment with WALGA's Biosecurity Advocacy Position	Review panel's identified opportunities for reform to achieve outcomes	WALGA's response on the importance of pursuing this opportunity for reform**	WALGA's identified benefits or issues with the reform opportunities
Everyone contributes to WA's biosecurity by taking reasonable and practicable steps to reduce biosecurity risk and impacts that are under their control	Agree	Yes (Statement 1)	<p><b>Opportunity 4</b> is to introduce a general biosecurity obligation in the BAM Act (similar to recent reforms in workplace health and safety legislation)</p> <p><b>Opportunity 5</b> is to improve biosecurity communications and engagement</p>	Important	<p><b>Opportunity 4 benefit:</b> Introducing a general legal obligation for biosecurity management in the Act will provide legislative weight to the concept of shared responsibility.</p> <p><b>Opportunity 4 issue:</b> A general legal obligation is a new concept for biosecurity management. It relies on all participants in the biosecurity system having an understanding of their obligation, and undertaking action as deemed reasonable. While the general obligation is intended to be non-prescriptive, it does create a system of accountability, the implications of which are unclear. As an example with similarities, the new <i>WA Work Health and Safety Act 2020</i> introduced a general legal obligation for persons conducting a business or undertaking (PCBUs) to ensure, so far as is reasonable practicable, workers and other persons are not exposed to risks to their health and safety. Employees were replaced with the term 'workers', which included employees, contractors, students and volunteers. The changes resulted in confusion in the Local Government sector as to what were reasonably practicable steps for the workers they were responsible for.</p> <p>It is important that the roles and responsibilities of each system participant is clarified. The roles and responsibilities of key state agencies such as DPIRD and DBCA need to be clearly defined and</p>
Everyone understands the importance of biosecurity and the benefits it delivers to them and to WA as a whole.	Agree	Yes (Statement 8)		Very important	

					<p>communicated to enable effective coordination and implementation of biosecurity actions. Local Governments role in the current system is also poorly articulated.</p> <p><b>Opportunity 5 benefit:</b> Education and awareness of biosecurity responsibilities is a fundamental element of achieving voluntary compliance.</p>
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Reform Area 3: Planning and reporting – vital to a better biosecurity system					
Review panel key outcomes (what we need to achieve)	WALGA's extent of agreement with outcomes*	Alignment with WALGA's Biosecurity Advocacy Position	Review panel's identified opportunities for reform to achieve outcomes	WALGA's response on the importance of pursuing this opportunity for reform**	WALGA's identified benefits or issues with the reform opportunities
Biosecurity investment prioritises the allocation of resources to the areas of greatest return	Agree	Yes (Statement 4)	<b>Opportunity 6</b> is to establish a formal body, supported by DPIRD, to provide strategic advice and leadership for WA's biosecurity system.  The body would have government, industry and community representatives, and plan activities at the local, regional and state level.	Very important	<p><b>Opportunity 6 benefit:</b> A formal body to provide strategic leadership for biosecurity through the development of a plan for the collaborative management and prioritisation of investment in pests and diseases across WA is critical to achieving outcomes.</p> <p>Involvement of all biosecurity system participants in planning and delivery of actions through representation on the body will provide the expertise and coordination required.</p> <p>Planning at the state, regional and local level is required to ensure prioritisation and alignment of activities to contribute to the biosecurity system as a whole.</p> <p>Evaluation and reporting on action plan achievement is important to gain public confidence through accountability and transparency, measure success, inform investment decisions and ensure adaptive management.</p> <p><b>Opportunity 6 issue:</b> There is currently a lack of State Government control of declared pests on land under their jurisdiction, due to a lack of resourcing. It is important that this issue is addressed during the strategic planning of biosecurity activities.</p>
Biosecurity activities are undertaken according to a cost-effective, science-based and risk-management approach	Agree	Yes (Statement 2)	It would provide strategic coordination of activities between biosecurity system participants, and identifying priorities and resource allocation to the areas of greatest return.		
State and <b>Local Governments</b> contribute to the cost of risk management measures in proportion to the public good accruing from those measures, and	Disagree	No	The body would report on the effectiveness of the implementation of the plan.		

their role in the system					
All other biosecurity system participants contribute in proportion to the risks and benefits	Agree	Yes (Statement 4)			Local Government has an important, but not greater, role in the biosecurity management system compared with other stakeholders (industry, community). The objective that couples Local Government with State Government as entities required to fund the cost of risk management measures implies that Local Governments are key to resourcing the system. The intention of including Local Government in this objective needs to be clarified.
Biosecurity system participants are involved in planning and decision making	Agree	Yes (Statement 2)			
Decisions on WA's biosecurity system should be clear and publicly available	Agree	Yes (Statement 2)			

Reform Area 4: Prioritising pests and diseases					
Review panel key outcomes (what we need to achieve)	WALGA's extent of agreement with outcomes*	Alignment with WALGA's Biosecurity Advocacy Position	Review panel's identified opportunities for reform to achieve outcomes	WALGA's response on the importance of pursuing this opportunity for reform**	WALGA's identified benefits or issues with the reform opportunities
Appropriate legislative controls, rigour and resources to reduce and control the risk of and harm caused by pests and diseases.	Agree	Yes (Statement 5)	<p><b>Opportunity 7</b> is to introduce the definition of 'biosecurity matter' into the BAM Act, and further classify it as either prohibited, restricted or permitted matter based on the level of risk presented to WA, similar to Tasmania's Biosecurity Act 2019.</p> <p>This would replace the current assessment and declaration of organisms as unlisted, permitted, prohibited or declared pests in WA. It would reduce the administration burden as risks may be assessed for classes of things rather than individual organisms, and make it simpler to understand requirements.</p>	Important	<p><b>Opportunity 7 benefit:</b> A simplified framework and assessment process based on assessment of the level of risk or the matter would provide a more transparent process, and potentially a stronger foundation for WA's biosecurity system.</p> <p>The current framework for the assessment and declaration of organisms in WA is unclear, with stakeholders questioning the reduction in the number of declared animals and pests, and change of some control categories to unassigned, following a review by DPIRD in 2016.</p> <p><b>Opportunity 7 issue:</b> WA's current biosecurity system is based on the declaration of organisms and assignment of management categories, which provides the legislative basis for management obligations of landholders. The replacement of this process with prescriptive legal requirements such as control orders, permits and codes would need to be clearly designed and communicated.</p>
Biosecurity system participants, informed by determined priorities, can understand their obligation and act on it.	Agree	Yes (Statement 1)			

Reform Area 5: Emergency powers – a necessary precaution					
Review panel key outcomes (what we need to achieve)	WALGA's extent of agreement with outcomes*	Alignment with WALGA's Biosecurity Advocacy Position	Review panel's identified opportunities for reform to achieve outcomes	WALGA's response on the importance of pursuing this opportunity for reform**	WALGA's identified benefits or issues with the reform opportunities
The WA Government can undertake quick and decisive action to prevent or control a pest or disease that may have a significant impact	Agree	Yes (Introduction Statement 4)	<p><b>Opportunity 8</b> recommends including formal emergency provisions in the BAM Act to ensure quick and decisive action.</p> <p><b>Opportunity 9</b> is to ensure the BAM Act has provisions that meet or exceed the powers in other biosecurity legislation, so that it is the primary Act for biosecurity (excluding diseases that affect only human health).</p>	<p>Very important</p> <p>Important</p>	<p><b>Opportunity 8 benefit:</b> There are increasing challenges posed by new pests, weeds and diseases. It is critical that the BAM Act includes effective emergency provisions for pests and diseases that have not yet arrived within our borders (not limited to declared pests), or subject to delay during reviews by the State Administrative Tribunal.</p> <p><b>Opportunity 8 issue:</b> It is essential that Local Government is consulted in the emergency response where emergency actions impact on Local Government operations or responsibilities.</p>



Reform Area 6: Compensation can boost biosecurity efforts					
Review panel key outcomes (what we need to achieve)	WALGA's extent of agreement with outcomes*	Alignment with WALGA's Biosecurity Advocacy Position	Review panel's identified opportunities for reform to achieve outcomes	WALGA's response on the importance of pursuing this opportunity for reform**	WALGA's identified benefits or issues with the reform opportunities
Individuals/ businesses are fairly compensated or reimbursed for direct losses and costs when destructive action is required to address a high-priority biosecurity risk.	Agree	N/A	<b>Opportunity 10</b> is to include appropriate compensation and reimbursement provisions in the BAM Act.	Important	<p><b>Opportunity 10 benefit:</b> Compensation may encourage individuals, businesses and organisations to report and take action on biosecurity risks, which may have significant implications if left unmanaged. The only compensation provisions that currently exist in the BAM Act are through Industry Funding Schemes, which are fully funded by industry, for industry.</p> <p><b>Opportunity 10 issue:</b> The proposal to include compensation and reimbursement provisions in the BAM Act appears to be targeted at the public, businesses and organisations. Local Governments should be included as organisations that are eligible for compensation.</p> <p>As an example, removal or pruning of infected tree species is currently the recommended treatment to eradicate Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer. This destructive action would be a significant expense for Local Government, if not funded by DPIRD as per the current response plan.</p> <p>In addition, there is the loss of public amenity and direct cost of planting replacement trees. This reform area could be revised to include consequential losses as deemed reasonable.</p>

Reform Area 7: Enabling industries to act					
Review panel key outcomes (what we need to achieve)	WALGA's extent of agreement with outcomes*	Alignment with WALGA's Biosecurity Advocacy Position	Review panel's identified opportunities for reform to achieve outcomes	WALGA's response on the importance of pursuing this opportunity for reform**	WALGA's identified benefits or issues with the reform opportunities
WA industries can access and take advantage of legislated support structures to establish and deliver biosecurity actions	Agree	N/A	<p><b>Opportunity 11</b> is to ensure third parties can be authorised to deliver accreditation schemes within the industry.</p> <p><b>Opportunity 12</b> is to introduce industry-government biosecurity response agreements, to formalise roles and responsibilities, and cost-sharing, during a biosecurity response relevant to an industry.</p>	<p>Important</p> <p>Important</p>	<p><b>Opportunity 12 benefit:</b> While provisions to support WA industries to better establish and deliver biosecurity actions are not directly relevant to Local Government, there are benefits for the public good. The WA beekeeping industries desire for an industry-government agreement with funding mechanisms to eradicate varroa mite, should it need to be eradicated in WA, provides a good example. There would be flow on benefits for local communities, with a significant increase in hobby beekeepers in recent years.</p>

Reform Area 8: Community led pest management					
Review panel key outcomes (what we need to achieve)	WALGA's extent of agreement with outcomes*	Alignment with WALGA's Biosecurity Advocacy Position	Review panel's identified opportunities for reform to achieve outcomes	WALGA's response on the importance of pursuing this opportunity for reform**	WALGA's identified benefits or issues with the reform opportunities
Local communities, networks and groups are supported to lead and undertake coordinated action to manage established pests on assets important to them, their region and the state as a whole	Agree	Yes (Statement 4)	<p><b>Opportunity 13</b> is to simplify the rating approach and broaden the revenue base of the Declared Pest Rate through a uniform and progressive ad valorem rating structure applied to land across WA of sufficient size.</p> <p><b>Opportunity 14</b> is to retain the State Government legislated dollar-for-dollar matching of funds raised through a DPR.</p> <p><b>Opportunity 15</b> is to apportion pooled funds to priority pest management programs and compliance programs.</p> <p><b>Opportunity 16</b> is to broaden the range of pest management entities that are eligible to receive pooled funds (including <b>Local Government</b>) and incentivise</p>	<p>Very important</p> <p>Very important</p> <p>Very important</p> <p>Very important</p>	<p><b>Opportunity 13 benefit:</b> WALGA considers, in-principle, that a broad-based DPR across WA for all freehold or leasehold or rural land classes of sufficient size represents a fairer system of funding the biosecurity system. It is noted that this would include land considered rural in the Perth metropolitan area and other regions across the state, which is not rated under the current system. WALGA considers this is preferable to a whole of state biosecurity levy (similar to the Emergency Services style levy), which was generally not supported by Local Government and which the review panel has noted it will not progress.</p> <p><b>Opportunity 13 issue:</b> Further detail on this proposal is required. The DPR is currently applied to 47% (65 of 139) Local Government districts across the state. The application of the DPR across the entirety of WA represents a significant change to the current DPR model. There may be opposition from landholders to paying the rate, as some Local Governments have noted in the existing system, and communication and education on the broader benefits to the public good will be vital to ensuring support and compliance. There also needs to be clarification as to whether Local Government land is defined as a rateable entity.</p>

			co-contributions from funding recipients.		
Action undertaken by local communities, networks and groups is effective and efficient, and contributes to the management of priority pests locally, regionally and for the state	Agree	Yes (Statement 4)			<p><b>Opportunity 15 benefit:</b> WALGA supports the apportionment of pooled funds to the management of widespread and established pests that are determined to be priorities at the local, regional and state level, as determined by the new formal biosecurity body.</p> <p><b>Opportunity 15 issue:</b> The methodology on how the DPR funds would be allocated requires further clarification. WALGA notes that a large portion of funding generated from the Emergency Services Levy and Waste Levy is not received by Local Government, but allocated to the activities of State agencies. All DPR funds should be allocated to direct biosecurity activities of the pest management entities, with a separate budget provision for State agencies.</p> <p>It is noted that landholders who pay the rate will expect to see pest management activities funded in their local area. There is little land in the Perth metropolitan area that would be subject to the new DPR, thus the existing problem of a lack of resources to control established pests and diseases in urban areas has not been addressed.</p> <p>WALGA does not support the apportionment of pooled funds to compliance programs. Compliance should be undertaken by the State Government regulator, DPIRD.</p> <p>The DPR should be collected by RevenueWA and not Local Government.</p> <p><b>Opportunity 16 benefit:</b> WALGA supports the broadening of eligible entities to receive funding to include Local Government, regional NRM groups, Landcare, Aboriginal and other pest management groups.</p> <p>WALGA supports the introduction of co-contributions from eligible entities as a fair and equitable approach</p>

					<p>to increasing investment in biosecurity management. This would recognise and leverage the existing significant investment, both cash and in-kind, that Local Governments currently contribute to biosecurity management at the local level.</p> <p><b>Opportunity 16 issue:</b> It is unclear whether the pest management entities would need to be recognised by the Minister to receive funds, as is currently the case for Recognised Biosecurity Groups.</p>
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Reform Area 9: Compliance with WA's biosecurity laws					
Review panel key outcomes (what we need to achieve)	WALGA's extent of agreement with outcomes*	Alignment with WALGA's Biosecurity Advocacy Position	Review panel's identified opportunities for reform to achieve outcomes	WALGA's response on the importance of pursuing this opportunity for reform**	WALGA's identified benefits or issues with the reform opportunities
Activities to encourage compliance are underpinned by behaviour science and evaluation	Agree	Yes (Statement 6)	<p><b>Opportunity 17</b> is to develop and implement initiatives to achieve behaviour/practices changes that support compliance.</p> <p><b>Opportunity 18</b> is to ensure penalties are proportional to the harm caused through incorporation of 'aggravated' offences.</p>	Important	<p><b>Opportunity 17 issue:</b> Activities to encourage compliance need to be coupled with strong enforcement of penalties. The reform opportunities do not address the lack of compliance and enforcement action by DPIRD, which has the responsibility under the BAM Act for these activities. It is not sufficient to state that better landholder control of pests is required. There needs to be monitoring and appropriate penalties applied where landholders are non-compliant and their lack of action is contributing to increased pest incursions on surrounding land</p> <p><b>Opportunity 18 benefit:</b> WALGA supports the increase in penalties to be proportional to the level of harm caused by biosecurity breaches.</p> <p><b>Opportunity 21 issue:</b> While WALGA is not opposed to the expansion of the scope of Local Government laws to apply to pest animals as well as plants in principle, the primary framework for the management of declared species or 'biosecurity matter' should remain under the legislative remit of the BAM Act.</p> <p>Control and enforcement mechanisms such as Local Laws have been used by Local Governments where landholder action is required but not mandated by the BAM Act, such as when pest plant species are delisted but remain problematic.</p>
Penalties under the BAM Act are appropriate to the offence and appropriately enforced	Strongly agree	Yes Statement 6	<p><b>Opportunity 19</b> is to use penalty units to ensure the monetary value of the penalty doesn't diminish over time</p> <p><b>Opportunity 20</b> is to increase the monetary value of penalties</p> <p><b>Opportunity 21</b> is to expand the scope of Local Government laws to apply to any widespread and established pest animal or plant.</p>	Important  Important  Important	

					<p>Local Laws should not be identified as being more effective than State provisions at achieving the control of widespread and established pests. Rather, they have used been a last resort where State biosecurity provisions have been ineffective.</p> <p>Local Governments should not have the responsibility for monitoring and enforcement of an expanded range of Local Laws, which is effectively a cost-shift from State to Local Government.</p> <p>There is also the potential that a plethora of Local Laws are created by different Local Governments for the same species, with inconsistencies in provisions and penalty rates. A local law template for the sector may be useful to provide guidance on content and whether BAM Act penalties apply, or penalty rates are at the Local Government discretion. WALGA has a local law template for pest plants to assist Local Governments.</p>
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## How to provide feedback

Given the short timeframe provided for Stage 3 of public consultation for the BAM Act Review, WALGA is strongly encouraging Local Governments to:

1. **Provide feedback directly to the Review Panel by Friday 30 June 2023** through the online survey portal [here](#).

**AND**

2. **Provide WALGA with a copy of their survey responses as well as any additional feedback on each of the key reform areas outlined in this draft submission.** Responses can be provided to [environment@walga.asn.au](mailto:environment@walga.asn.au) by **COB Monday 26 June 2023**.

WALGA will be hosting an online workshop on Stage 3 BAM Act Review to facilitate feedback from the sector on **Wednesday 14 June, 10.30 am – 12 pm**. Please register [here](#) by Monday 12 June.

Feedback received from Local Governments will inform WALGA's Stage 3 submission to the BAM Act Review on behalf of the sector, and WALGA's ongoing biosecurity advocacy on behalf of the sector.

For more information, please contact **Melanie Davies, Biodiversity and Sustainability Project Officer**, [mdavies@walga.asn.au](mailto:mdavies@walga.asn.au) or call 9213 2065.

## Next steps

The Review Panel will deliver its final report to the Minister for Agriculture and Food later this year. The information received in Stage 3 will help the review panel formulate its final recommendations. The WA Government will then determine if it will act on those recommendations and, if it chooses to proceed, how further work and consultation will be done to progress the recommendations.