

Great Southern Country Zone

MINUTES

Friday, 24 November 2023

Tambellup Community Pavillion
2 East Terrace, Tambellup

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Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework



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

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

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

Using this tool:

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

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

Endorsed by GSCZ Feb 2022

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

The meeting was opened by Zone Executive Officer, Lyn Fogg at 10.07am.

1.1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTY

We, the Great Southern Country Zone of WALGA acknowledge the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to County, culture, and community. We embrace the vast cultural diversity throughout Western Australia, including the Noongar People as the Traditional Custodians of this land, and pay our respects to Elders past and present. WALGA is committed to supporting the efforts of WA Local Governments to foster respectful partnerships and strengthen relationships with local Aboriginal communities.

2. ATTENDANCE

ZONE MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES:

City of Albany	Mayor Greg Stocks CEO Andrew Sharpe (non-voting)
Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup	President Cr Michael White Deputy President Cr Doug Barritt CEO Anthony Middleton (non-voting) Kay Squibb, Manager Finance & Administration (observer)
Shire of Cranbrook	Deputy President Cr Daisy Egerton-Warburton CEO Linda Gray (non-voting)
Shire of Gnowangerup	Deputy President Cr Rebecca O'Meehan Cr Peter Callaghan (Deputy) Anita Finn, Snr Governance and Risk Officer (observer)
Shire of Jerramungup	CEO Martin Cuthbert (non-voting)
Shire of Katanning Deputy Member/s	President Cr Kristy D'Aprile Cr John Goodheart Deputy President Cr Liz Guidera (observer) A/CEO Dale Putland (non-voting)
Shire of Kent	President Cr Kate Johnston Cr Scott Crosby CEO Christie Smith (non-voting)
Shire of Kojonup Deputy Member/s	President Cr Roger Bilney Cr Alan Egerton-Warburton CEO Grant Thompson (non-voting)
Shire of Plantagenet	President Cr Len Handasyde

Cr Ken Clements (Deputy
CEO Julian Murphy (non-voting)

Shire of Woodanilling

President Cr Dale Douglas
Deputy President Cr Russel Thomson
CEO Kelly Bartley (non-voting)

GUESTS

Agencies

Great Southern Development
Commission

Pippa Hepburn, Regional Development Officer

Regional Development Australia –
Great Southern WA Inc

Simon Lyas, Director, Regional Development

Members of Parliament

Nil.

Guest Speakers

Murray Carter, Rural Fire Services Executive Director,
Department of Fire and Emergency Services

WALGA

Lyn Fogg, Zone Executive Officer
Susie Moir, Policy Manager Resilient Communities

2.1. APOLOGIES

City of Albany

Deputy Mayor Cr Paul Terry

Shire of Cranbrook

President Cr George Pollard

Shire of Denmark

Cr Dominic Youel

Cr Jackie Ormsby

CEO, David King

Shire of Gnowangerup

President Cr Kate O’Keeffe

CEO David Nicholson

Shire of Jerramungup

President Cr Joanne Iffla

Deputy President Cr Julie Lennhouwers

Shire of Kojonup

Cr Cynthia Wieringa

Shire of Plantagenet

Deputy President Cr Andrew Fraser

WALGA Roadwise

Vivienne Gardiner, Regional Road Safety Adviser

Great Southern Development
Commission

Jarrad Gardner, Acting Chief Executive Officer

Jessica van der Waag, Senior Regional Development Officer

Department of Local Government,
Sport, and Cultural Industries

Mel Eastough, Regional Manager

National Emergency Management
Agency

Annette Balmer, Coordination and Planning Officer

Members of Parliament

Rebecca Stephens, MLA Member for Albany (WA)

Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O’Connor

Jane Kelsbie, MLA Member for Warren-Blackwood

Peter Rundle, MLA, Member for Roe

WALGA Governance and Services Overview

With the Consent of the meeting, Item 5.2.2 was brought forward.

Zone Executive Officer, Lyn Fogg, presented an outline of WALGA's structure and functions to support newly appointed delegates to the Great Southern Country Zone, in understanding the Zone Delegate role.

3. ELECTIONS

In accordance with the WALGA Constitution, the Secretariat shall assume the Chair to conduct the election of Zone office bearers, State Council Representative and Deputy State Council Representative.

Guidelines for elections were distributed to Member Local Governments via email dated 17 October 2023.

3.1 Election of Great Southern Country Zone Chair and Deputy Chair

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

Zone Chair Nominations

At the time the agenda was produced, written nomination/s had been received for the position of Zone Chair as follows:

- Cr Scott Crosby, Shire of Kent

Nominations were called from the floor. No further nominations were received.

DECLARATION

That Cr Scott Crosby, Shire of Kent is elected as Chair of the Great Southern Country Zone for the term of 2 years, November 2023 to November 2025.

Zone Deputy Chair Nominations

At the time the agenda was produced, no written nomination/s were received for the position of Zone Deputy Chair. Nominations were called from the floor.

President Cr Kristy D'Aprile, Shire of Katanning nominated Mayor Greg Stocks, City of Albany. Mayor Stocks accepted the nomination.

No further nominations were received.

DECLARATION

That Mayor Greg Stocks, City of Albany is elected as Deputy Chair of the Great Southern Country Zone for the term of 2 year, November 2023 to November 2025.

3.2 Election of the Great Southern Country Zone State Council Representative and Deputy State Council Representative

WALGA's governing body consists of a 24-member State Council with its members derived from Metropolitan and Country Zones. The State Council is chaired by the Association President.

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

The Great Southern Country Zone provides one representative position on State Council and one deputy representative position. The term is from the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2023 and concluding at the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2025.

State Councillor Nominations

At the time the agenda was produced, written nomination/s were received for the position of State Council Representative, as follows:

- Cr Scott Crosby, Shire of Kent

Nominations were called from the floor. No further nominations were received.

DECLARATION

That Cr Scott Crosby, Shire of Kent is elected as the Great Southern Country Zone State Council Representative for the term of 2 years, December 2023 to December 2025.

Deputy State Councillor Nominations

At the time the agenda was produced, no written nomination/s had been received written nominations for the position of Deputy State Council Representative. Nominations were called from the floor.

President Cr Kristy D'Aprile, Shire of Katanning nominated Mayor Greg Stocks, City of Albany. Mayor Stocks accepted the nomination.

No further nominations were received.

DECLARATION

That Mayor Greg Stocks, City of Albany is elected as the Great Southern Country Zone Deputy State Council Representative for the term of 2 years, December 2023 to December 2025.

At the conclusion of the Election, Cr Scott Crosby assumed the Chair and extended appreciation for the immediate past Chair, former President Cr Chris Pavlovich, Shire of Plantagenet and past Deputy Chair, former President, Cr Liz Guidera, Shire of Katanning for their dedication and work in support of the Great Southern Country Zone.

4. 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.

No declarations of interest were made.

5. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS

5.1. 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.

5.2. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATION

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

Zone Meeting Dates 2023 /2024		Speaker Confirmed
24 November	Broomehill - Tambellup	DFES, Rural Fire Services – MAF, consolidation of emergency services legislation (GSCZ-23/08/23-4.2.2)
Feb 2024	Cranbrook	Rural Health West – Regional service delivery programs (GSCZ-23/08/23-4.2.2)
April 2024	Denmark	WA Salaries and Allowances Tribunal - regional allowances methodology (GSCZ-23/08/23-4.2.2)
June 2024	Gnowangerup	Department of Mines and Industry Regulation – Exploration licenses, regulations, and procedures (GSCZ-23/08/23-4.2.2)
Aug 2024	Jerramungup	Albany 2026 Bicentennial – planning for regional economic benefit (GSCZ-23/08/23-4.2.2)

5.2.1. DFES – Rural Fire Division Executive Director, Murray Carter

Mr Murray Carter, provided a presentation on the following topics:

- Mitigation Activity Fund
 - Future review planning
- Consolidation of emergency services legislation
- Update relevant to the Great Southern region.
 - Incident statistics
 - Online training now available (targeting farmer fire fighters)

5.2.2. WALGA Governance and Services Overview

By Lyn Fogg, Zone Executive Officer

Attachment No. 1 About WALGA Presentation (circulated separately)

With the consent of the meeting Item 5.2.2 was presented prior to Item 3 Elections. A copy of the presentation is circulated separately to Members.

5.2.3. Guest Speaker Proposal – Friendship Games

Andrew Vlahov from Friendship Games would like the opportunity to provide a deputation before an event that is being coordinated for next year. The purpose of the initiative is as follows:

Global

Create a globally recognised youth event in Western Australia. To enhance strategic relationships by providing pathways and platforms for inclusion and to build enduring relationships for Western Australia, our First Nations Communities and global partners.

Local

To bring together our youth in communities including Remote and Regional participants with a sport, culture and education platform for the broader community of Western Australia (WA) including Government, Industry and Corporate WA for social and economic benefit.

Sports Diplomacy 2030

To create a globally recognised sports event aligned to the Sports Diplomacy 2030 strategic priorities. Increase awareness of the Australian cultural exchange opportunities, leveraging the positive international connections during the Games, enhancing Australia's reputation as an inclusive and respectful country.

The Friendship Games is a multisport "carnival style" program. A condensed program format is proposed in 2024 with 11 targeted sports and approximately 4500 participants from International, WA Regional and Metropolitan youth aged between 13-16 years of age and inclusive of all abilities.

Andrew would like to provide further information prior to the event, either February or April.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ken Clements
Seconded: Mayor Greg Stocks

That the Great Southern Country Zone supports a deputation at a future Zone meeting from Friendship Games.

CARRIED

6. AGENCY REPORTS

6.1. GREAT SOUTHERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (GSDC)

Report by Pippa Hepburn, Regional Development Officer

Ms Pippa Hepburn advised the eID infrastructure grants (sheep and goats) are open. Funding applications close on 30 June 2024.

Links provided below to the grant guideline, F&Qs and media statement:

- <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/media-statements/Cook-Labor-Government/eID-infrastructure-grants-now-available-to-support-farmers-20231116>
- <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/sites/gateway/files/Sheep%20and%20Goat%20eID%20Infrastructure%20Grants%20Guidelines.pdf>
- <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/sites/gateway/files/Sheep%20and%20Goat%20eID%20Infrastructure%20Grants%20FAQs.pdf>

Noted.

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

Report by Simon Lyas, Chief Executive Officer

Nil. (Refer item 8.2.1 DAMA update)

6.3. SOUTH COAST NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (SCNRM)

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

Nil.

6.4. GREAT SOUTHERN HUMAN SERVICES FORUM

Report by Michaela Crosby, Shire of Kent

Nil.

6.5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURAL FREIGHT GROUP (LGAFG)

Report by Cr Russel Thomson, Zone Delegate Shire of Woodanilling

The Zone noted this group is no longer active. This item will be removed from future agenda.

6.6. GREAT SOUTHERN REGIONAL ROADS GROUP

Report by Cr Len Handasyde, GSRRG Chair, Shire of Plantagenet Zone Delegate

The last meeting was held on Monday the 20-11-2023 in Albany and I remain the Chair for this group. We are fortunate that we now have a Deputy Chair in Cr George Pollard (Shire President of Cranbrook). This is a good initiative.

The plan has been adopted for the next year's roadworks and programs locally are underway as is usual for this time of the year.

There was a reminder about Class 1 Bridge Inspectins and Shires need to talk to MRWA if they need any assistance in getting these done. They will continue to hammer this matter.

The acquittal carryovers were modest for the last financial year and Mr Duffield the RD of GSMRWA seemed reasonably happy with this. We must continue to press though towards 100% acquittals if we are serious about improvement of the Local Government road network. Statewide however RRG's handed back around \$65m, the highest amount ever in a financial year. The largest chunk of that was from the Metro Area.

The Secondary Freight Network Advocacy document is progressing and the final list of roads needs to be firmed up after the initial work that has been done by the MRWA people. We will need a small group to come together shortly within the next couple of weeks to look over some mapping to finalise the list. This list will include more roads than the State RARF Strategy looked at and more than the State network. The SFN funding issues are presumed to be going ahead but it is clear that the study advocacy doc will proceed as much of the work is done.

I will need a good list of volunteers for this final stage of the process before it goes out for assessment. It has been suggested that the Tech Working Group could undertake this task along with some good mapping capability possibly in the MRWA Office in Albany.

I look forward to working with each of you again as we press on towards the improvement of the network for the safety and efficiency of all road users.

Noted.

6.7. WALGA ROADWISE

Report by Vivienne Gardner, RoadWise Road Safety Advisor

Nil.

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

Report by Mel Eastough, Regional Manager

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

Noted.

6.9. NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA)

Report by Annette Balmer, Coordination and Planning Officer

Nil.

7. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES
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RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Kate Johnson
Seconded: President Cr Len Handasyde

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

CARRIED

7.1. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil.

7.2. ZONE RESOLUTION STATUS REPORT

By Lyn Fogg, Zone Executive Officer

Attachment No. 3 [Great Southern Country Zone Status Report November 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.

RECOMMENDATION

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

7.2.1. Zone Action Items Report

By Lyn Fogg, Zone Executive Officer

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

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

RECOMMENDATION

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

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Kate Johnson
Seconded: Deputy President Cr Rebecca O'Meehan

That the Great Southern Country Zone NOTES the:

1. Status Report dated November 2023, as detailed in Attachment No.3
2. Action Items Report dated November 2023, as detailed in Attachment No.4.

CARRIED

8. ZONE BUSINESS

8.1. ZONE REPORTS

8.1.1. Zone Financial Report – October 2023

By Nilpa Shah-Smith, WALGA Finance Manager

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 October 2023.

Income includes all member subscriptions invoiced and collected.

Meeting costs of \$585 related to payment for catering expenses for zone meeting held in Albany.

The overall result for the year to date consists of a surplus of \$5,975 compared to the budgeted surplus of \$1,450.

Table 1: Statement of Income and Expenditure – period ended 31 October 2023

	Note	Actual	Budget
		\$	\$
Income			
Subscriptions	1	6,600	6,600
Other		-	
Total Income		6,600	6,600
Expenses			
Bank Fees		40	150
Meeting Costs	2	585	5,000
Total Expenses		625	5,150
Surplus/(Deficit)		\$5,975	\$1,450
Notes			
1. Subscriptions excl GST 11@ \$600 each - Invoiced by WALGA on behalf of GSCZ - All fully paid.			
2. Catering expense for zone meeting held in Albany 31/8/23			

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

Assets	\$
Bank	35,512
Total Assets	35,512
Liabilities	
Creditors	-
GST Payable	-
Unused Project Funds	28,800
Total Liabilities	28,800
Net Assets	\$ 6,712
Equity	
Members Funds B/F	737
Current year earnings	5,975
Total Equity	\$ 6,712

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Len Handasyde
Seconded: Cr Russel Thomson

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

CARRIED

8.1.2. Zone Chairperson's Report

By Zone Chair, Cr Scott Crosby

The Chair encouraged Zone Delegates to discuss strategic objectives for the Great Southern Zone with their individual Councils and bring back their proposals to the next Zone meeting.

It was noted that State Government will be holding a 'Community Caucus' at the City of Albany on 4/5 February 2024. It was AGREED that, if possible, the Zone should seek an opportunity to meet with the Government's Caucus.

ACTIONS:

- **Zone Executive Officer to liaise with City of Albany to confirm if a Zone meeting with the Caucus is viable.**
- **If so, Zone Executive Officer to identify potential topics for discussion with Caucus based upon the Zone's September 2023 Regional State Council presentation, aligned with the WALGA State Budget Submission and circulate the proposal to Zone.**
- **Zone Executive Officer, in consultation with the Chair to coordinate an online special meeting of the Zone to facilitate arrangements for the Zone's meeting with Caucus.**

8.1.3. Zone Hosting State Council – September 2023 - Update

Lyn Fogg, Zone Executive Officer

Each year, WALGA State Council has two regional meetings - one hosted by a Metropolitan Zone and another hosted by a Country Zone.

Regional meetings give State Council the opportunity to meet with Elected Members and senior officers from Member Local Governments to discuss topics of regional significance, enabling State Councillors to gain a first-hand appreciation of the issues confronting Local Governments in each Zone.

The September 2023 Regional State Council meeting was hosted by the Shire of Katanning on behalf of the Great Southern Country Zone.

The Zone provided State Council with a Zone Forum on the Tuesday 13 September, where each Zone member provided a presentation detailing their Local Government's profile, current projects, top 3 challenges and top 3 opportunities. The Zone also provided presentations on the following topics:

- Digital Connectivity – Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Emergency Management Servicing, Resourcing and Funding, David Nicholson CEO, Shire of Gnowangerup
- Bush Fire Mitigation Activity Fund, David King CEO, Shire of Denmark
- Land Use Planning for Renewable Energy, Anthony Middleton CEO, Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup
- 2026 Albany Bicentennial, Mayor Wellington and Andrew Sharpe CEO, City of Albany.

These presentations demonstrated the knowledge and expertise of Zone member Local Governments and were well received by State Council, reinforcing the importance of WALGA's advocacy work.

Copies of the presentation may be obtained from the Zone Executive Officer.

The Shire of Katanning then provided a bus tour highlighting the Shire's facilities and services, key developments and future opportunities. On Tuesday evening a dinner at the Premier Mill Hotel attended by State Councillors, WALGA executive, Zone delegates and CEO's provided an opportunity for fellowship.

Zone members then had the opportunity to observe the State Council's Strategic Forum and meeting on Wednesday morning, before State Councillors and WALGA executive travelled home in some 'interesting' stormy weather.



Katanning President Cr Guidera welcomes guests



Member for Roe, Peter Rundle MLA



Premier Mill Dinner



Strategic Forum / State Council Meeting

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Len Handasyde

Seconded: President Cr Dale Douglas

The Great Southern Country Zone extends appreciation to the Shire of Katanning for hosting the 2023 Regional State Council Meeting on behalf of the Zone.

CARRIED

8.2. ZONE PRIORITY STRATEGIC ISSUES

8.2.1. Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) - UPDATE

Mr Simon Lyas, RDA-GS, Designated Area Representative

BACKGROUND

RDA Great Southern was approved by WALGA Southern Country Zone as the Dedicated Area Representative (DAR) ie Administrator of the proposed DAMA) in March 2023 as per the Service Agreement between RDA and the WALGA Southern Zone.

The GS DAMA business case was submitted to the Dept of Home Affairs (DoHA) on 30 May 2023. EY received a written response from DoHA in late September seeking further information on several issues including Occupations, Skill Assessments, Evidence of Need for some occupations, Temporary Skilled Migrant Income Threshold (TSMIT), DAMA Concessions, Residency Pathways and Indigenous Consultation.

UPDATE

Since June 2023, RDA Great Southern has been working on the following:

- The impact of the Migration Review on the GS DAMA business case.
- The impact of the TSMIT increase from \$50,000 to \$70,000 effective 1 July 2023, on the business case.
- The impact of the new Skills Priority List issued by Jobs and Skills Australia in September on the business case.
- A detailed reconciliation and redrafting of GS DAMA occupation list, with evidence from the

Survey data.

- Collation and formulation of responses to queries from the DoHA.
- Consultation and follow-up of responses from First Nation organisations.
- Work with EY to finalise the GS DAMA business case version 2.0 for the Minister's review.
- Commenced communications with migration services for the purposes of creating a migrant settlement guide (for DAMA employers).
- 8 September 2023 – RDA Attended a conference at Curtin University on Migration Mobility.
- Keeping the Zone DAMA Working Group updated as required.

- Attending to DAMA queries from the general public including creating a data base for DAMA skilled migration enquiries.

EY – Timeline, Scope of Work and Costs

The DAMA Working Group has responsibility to monitor the project deliverables and liaise with EY if any additional costs and activities associated with the Business Case require attention.

Next Steps

RDA Great Southern will continue working with EY as DoHA considers changes to the Business Case.

Planning is underway for the DAMA implementation including marketing and communications, business briefing sessions in the region and establishing the DAR office at 81 Albany Highway for administering the employer assessment process following confirmation of the DAMA from DoHA.

Noted.

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

Lyn Fogg, Zone Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

The Great Southern Country Zone initiated a project to establish a Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) to attract migrant workers to address specified skills shortages in the region. To facilitate the project Zone member Local Governments have contributed funding and at its meeting held 26 August 2023, the Zone by resolution established a Working Group:

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 Chair, be established to progress the DAMA on behalf of all committed Great Southern Local Governments.

DAMA Working Group Charter:

- 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)

COMMENT

As reported in item 8.2.1 above, the Working Group continues to have a role in facilitating finalisation of the Business Case through to Ministerial Approval for the DAMA to be established, enabling Regional Development Australia Great Southern, as the Designated Area Representative to implement the DAMA.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Dale Douglas
Seconded: President Cr Len Handasyde

That the Great Southern Country Zone NOTES:

1. The continuing role of the DAMA Working Group; and
2. The Zone Chair as elected at this meeting, will join the Working Group consistent with the August 2021 Zone resolution.

CARRIED

8.3. MATTERS FOR ZONE NOTING AND DECISION

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

8.3.1. 2024 Zone Meeting Schedule

BACKGROUND

The scheduling of WALGA Zone meetings enables Zone consideration of WALGA State Council agenda items, with subsequent Zone resolutions provided in the revised agenda for WALGA State Council's consideration.

The following table outlines the WALGA State Council meeting and agenda distribution schedule, which informs the proposed Zone 2024 meeting dates:

WALGA State Council Agenda Distribution:	PREFERRED Period for scheduling 2024 Zone Meeting	WALGA State Council Revised Agenda <i>incl. Zone resolutions</i>	WALGA State Council Ordinary Meetings 2024
Wednesday 7 February	Thursday 15 to Monday 26 February	Friday, 1 March	Wednesday 6 March
Wednesday 29 March	Thursday 11 to Monday 22 April	Friday, 26 April	Wednesday 1 May <i>North Metropolitan Zone</i>
Wednesday 31 May	Thursday 13 to Monday 24 June	Friday, 28 June	Wednesday 3 July
Wednesday 2 August	Thursday 15 to Monday 26 August	Friday 30 August	Thursday-Friday 5-6 September <i>South West Country Zone</i>
Wednesday 1 November	Thursday 14 to Monday 25 November	Friday 29 November	Wednesday 4 December

COMMENT

Proposed Great Southern Country Zone 2024 meeting dates are recommended below, ensuring Zone meetings fall within the preferred period for Zone meetings and align with preparation of the revised State Council agenda.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Deputy President Cr Rebecca O'Meehan
Seconded: President Cr Kate Johnson

That the Great Southern Country Zone meeting are to be held as per the below schedule for 2024.

Date	Host Local Government
23 February 2024	Shire of Cranbrook

19 April 2024	Shire of Denmark
21 June 2024	Shire of Gnowangerup
23 August 2024	Shire of Jerramungup
22 November 2024	Shire of Katanning

CARRIED

8.3.2. Appeal for Remedial Action on Education Policy and Procedures in Country Schools

By the Shire of Kojonup

BACKGROUND

At the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) Great Southern Zone meeting held in Albany on 25 August 2023 the Minister for Education, Dr Toni Buti, and a representative of the Department of Education, Mr Nickolai Emery, both addressed the meeting about education policies with special reference to issues in country-based schools.

COMMENT

Dr Buti spoke on NAPLAN results (just published that week) demonstrating the great gap between educational attainment in metropolitan schools and country-based schools, even including regional cities like Albany, Bunbury, Kalgoorlie, and Geraldton.

Dr Buti also stated the following:

- the budget allocated to education is rising;
- the State and Federal Governments are looking to reform policy and are trying to overcome a teacher shortage (world-wide); and
- schools are moving toward a full-service model which includes allied professional services like psychology, remedial work and the like (all those mentioned are based in Albany and not accessible by rural schools easily or often). This is also the case with support for “young people experiencing challenging circumstances”. These students, and their teachers/assistants need constant help and presence. There is no suitable programme available for these students in country-based schools, away from the main centres.

In contrast to the above points, I am led to believe that ‘no new money’ is apparent in existing schools, teachers are leaving the profession for more lucrative work elsewhere, teachers are well overdue for a pay rise to bring them into line with other States, and education assistants are desperately needed to back up students who need extra attention. Staff are said to not be supported when trying to deal with recalcitrant students, that despite Minister Buti putting out a Violence in Schools policy, they are yet to be advised on how to practically implement this in schools.

Mr Emery spoke on secondary pathways, something that is difficult for small communities, and alternative pathways for disaffected students. There are models of schooling that can be accessed from home but they are generally restricted to special circumstances and not available for many. Mr Emery recognised that there needs to be programmes that retain children at risk in education. This is an area that needs attention urgently as there is little available for children unsuited to the classroom environment which can result in substantial hindrance for teachers and disruption to other students whose education is supremely important in the primary years.

In relation to students who wish to take advantage of Distant Education classes in subjects not taught at their school, whilst these facilities are available in most schools, the schools are not funded to supervise and mentor these students. The system will not work without adequate mentoring resources.

Also discussed after the Minister's address was the problem of housing for teachers in country towns. When teachers were obliged to serve two years in country schools in compensation for free tertiary education, housing was supplied by the Education Department but much of this stock has dwindled or is now of poor quality and repair. WA Police provides suitable housing for its staff and it should be the case with the Education Department, for at least a proportion of the staff required for the local school. It is very hard to attract teachers to small country towns, especially if they have families, without the offer of suitable housing. Teachers are funded well to work in very remote schools, but rural schools are ignored. Teachers will not work in the country if the housing offered is inadequate. At last estimate there will be 940 vacancies for secondary colleges next year. I believe Merredin College has operated with five teachers short all this year.

There is little incentive for investment in housing for rental in small towns as the capital growth offered and the cost of providing monopoly utilities, such as water and power, make such investment hard to justify. The high rent required to make an investment is also a disincentive for teachers. State Government must find ways to make this work if teachers are going to be attracted to choose a rural school over one on the coast.

As there was little promise of any solutions to the above problems in the pipeline, the author recommends Council advocate through WALGA for action and, therefore, proposes the following recommendation at the next WALGA Great Southern Country Zone meeting, to be held at the Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup on 24 November 2023.

At its meeting held 26 September 2023, the Shire of Kojonup resolved to present the following recommendation for the Zone's consideration.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Alan Egerton-Warburton
Seconded: President Cr Roger Bilney

That the Great Southern Country Zone supports the Shire of Kojonup's resolution as written below:

That the Western Australian Local Government Association Great Southern Zone (WALGA) request that WALGA strongly advocates to the Department of Education (Department) on behalf of rural and remote districts that greater efforts be made to reduce the inequality of educational opportunity with particular reference to the following:

- 1. That the Department makes available resources for intervention in the experience of students specifically disaffected by the current model of schooling who are disruptive, falling behind and at risk of failing to learn to read, write and work in basic arithmetic; including intensive attention combined with health and like issues and more active, empathic, and practical instruction.***
- 2. That the Department makes available the current resources of Distant Education and/or enables families to access similar private providers for secondary education in order that students can study for an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank), or other subjects of their own choosing, using internet resources and mentors provided in the schools closest to them; and***
- 3. That the Department subsidises housing suitable for teachers or enables local governments to build and manage such housing.***

CARRIED

8.3.3. Proposed Changes to the Regulations on Performing Road Works During a Total Fire Ban

By Max Bushell, WALGA

Attachment No. 5 DFES Presentation (circulated separately)

BACKGROUND

Recent changes to the Australian Fire Danger Rating System and Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) internal policies have resulted in an increase in the declaration of Total Fire Bans (TFB) across Western Australia.

This increase has resulted in frequent and substantive impacts to road works on Local Government roads with a consequent loss of productivity and increased risk for road users, as road repair issues are not able to be addressed in a timely fashion. DFES have identified some changes to the current regulations and have held information sessions outlining the proposed changes, as indicated in the attached presentation.

These changes acknowledge that a uniform approach to regulating road work during a TFB is not effective or applicable across the diverse spectrum of Local Government activities and landscapes in WA and greatly simplify the requirements placed on Local Governments with regard to performing road works during a TFB. Notwithstanding this change, the onus will remain on Local Governments to ensure that fire safety provisions, based on type of work, prevailing conditions, and work area, etc. are sufficient and that a risk assessment has been undertaken.

Noted

9. WALGA STATE COUNCIL BUSINESS

9.1. ZONE STATE COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT

By Zone State Councillor

Nil.

9.2. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA – MATTERS FOR DECISION

Attachment No. 6 The is found via link: [State Council Agenda: 6 December 2023](#)

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 that is then presented to the State Council for consideration.

STATE COUNCIL Item 7.1 2023 Annual General Meeting Resolutions

Executive Summary

- WALGA's 2023 Annual General Meeting was held on Monday, 18 September 2023.
 - The meeting resolved for WALGA to act in relation to four Member motions:
 1. Local Governments' representation at the State Administrative Tribunal relating to planning matters within its district
 2. Land Use Policy
 3. Transparency – Management Order Determinations
 4. Regional and Remote Housing
-

5. Proposed New WALGA Constitution
- Two Executive Motions, one proposing a new Constitution giving effect to an alternative governance structure and the other proposing amendments to the existing Constitution, were both lost as they failed to reach the required Special Majority of support from Members.
 - The action taken or proposed to be taken in relation to each of the resolutions since the Annual General Meeting has been summarized for State Council's information.

Recommendation

That:

1. the following resolutions from the 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the People and Place Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:

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

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

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

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

5.3 Transparency – Management Order Determinations

That WALGA:

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

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

Executive Summary

- Issues have been raised by the Gascoyne Country Zone and Growth Alliance Perth and Peel and are subject of a resolution from the 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting (see Agenda Item 7.1).

- Issues are further evidenced by a sample survey of Local Governments in the: Pilbara, Gascoyne, Northern Country, Peel Country, South-West Country and South-East Metropolitan Zones.
- Transparency of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) decision making policy and procedures will help to:
 - Streamline application and decision-making processes, reduce backlog and delays.
 - Avoid wasted time, effort, resources and costs and enable consistent, transparent, and accountable decisions.
- This report seeks adoption of a new WALGA Advocacy position: 'Crown Land and Management Order Administration - Land Administration Act 1997'.

Recommendation

That WALGA endorse the below Advocacy Position:

Crown Land and Management Order Administration - Land Administration Act 1997

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

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

STATE COUNCIL Item 7.3 Review of Public Open Space Advocacy Positions

Executive Summary

- It is proposed that the Advocacy Positions 4.4 and 6.11 Public Open Space be replaced with a new position that reflects Local Governments' Public Open Space priorities.
- The new position has been informed by WALGA's [Background Paper: Public Open Space in Residential Areas](#), WALGA's submission on draft *Operational Policy 2.3 Planning for Public Open Space* and input from Local Governments.
- The position was endorsed by both the People and Place Policy Team and the Environment and Waste Policy Team at a joint meeting on 17 October.

Recommendation

That WALGA endorse:

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

6.11 Public Open Space

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

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

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

STATE COUNCIL Item 7.4 2024 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members

Executive Summary

- The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) conduct an annual inquiry into Local Government Chief Executive Officer and Elected Member remuneration.
- In preparation for the inquiry to be undertaken early next year, WALGA has prepared a draft submission to SAT that makes recommendations in relation to Elected Member remuneration, Chief Executive Officer remuneration and the Regional/Isolation Allowance.
- The submission argues for:
 - An increase of 4 percent for Elected Member Fees and Allowances (including maximum reimbursable expenses);
 - An increase to the Chief Executive Officer remuneration bands of 4 percent;

- An increase to the maximum payable Regional/Isolation Allowance for Local Governments that are particularly isolated, long distances from population centres and lacking in amenities;
 - A review of the methodology, criteria and weightings for the Regional/Isolation Allowance; and
 - Publication of guidance about how the Regional/Isolation Allowance is applied in terms of methodology, criteria and weightings.
- SAT will likely publish its determination for 2024-2025 in April.

Recommendation

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

STATE COUNCIL Item 7.5 Hazardous Waste policy Statement and Advocacy Position

Executive Summary

- The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 7.10 Household Hazardous Waste are 20 years old and require updating to reflect the roles and expectations of all tiers of government, industry and the producers of materials which become HHW.
- The Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) endorsed a new Policy Statement and Advocacy Position in August 2023.
- The new Policy Statement and Position will support WALGA's ongoing advocacy on behalf of the sector.

Recommendation

That WALGA:

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

7.10 Household Hazardous Waste

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

STATE COUNCIL Item 7.6 Waste Education Policy Statement and Advocacy Position

Executive Summary

- The WALGA Waste Management Education Policy Statement was endorsed in 2008, prior to prior to any significant State or Federal Government involvement or investment in waste education.

- The Policy Statement has been updated to incorporate feedback from MWAC to define the role of Regional Councils and highlighting the need for a long-term strategic approach to waste education.
- The Advocacy Position on Waste Education has been updated to reflect the essential nature of waste education in the management of waste, roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders, the importance of sustained and strategic investment and the challenges certain materials pose at point of disposal.
- The Advocacy Position and Policy Statement were considered and endorsed by the Municipal Waste Advisory Council in October 2023.

Recommendation

That WALGA:

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

STATE COUNCIL Item 7.7 Submission E-Waste Landfill Ban Regulations

Executive Summary

- The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) has released a [consultation draft of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery \(e-waste\) Regulations 2023](#) (draft Regulations) for comment.
- The draft Regulations have been developed to support the implementation of a statewide ban on e-waste disposal to landfill by 2024, with the aim of improving management and recycling of e-waste produced by households and businesses across the State.
- The draft Regulations outline the materials to be covered in the first stage of the ban from 1 July 2024, as well as the regulatory obligations for e-waste service providers, commercial e-waste generators and landfill operators.
- WALGA has developed a Submission on the regulations which requests clarification on several areas and reiterates our Advocacy Position that comprehensive and effective product stewardship schemes must be implemented for products subject to the e-waste landfill ban prior to the ban taking effect.
- WALGA was granted an extension to the 22 November 2023 closing date to allow State Council consideration of the submission at the 6 December meeting.

Recommendation

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

STATE COUNCIL Item 7.8 Submission on Philanthropic Engagement Framework for Emergency Management

Executive Summary

- The State Emergency Management Committee is currently consulting on a draft [Philanthropic Engagement Framework for Emergency Management](#).
- The Framework has been developed in recognition of the increasing role of philanthropic organisations in emergencies, the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters, and the current lack of a governance framework to guide and manage these interactions.
- The Framework aims to support increased collaboration between public and private sectors for an effective and efficient emergency management system and provides guidance on the key issues to be considered when determining appropriate governance arrangements for public-private partnerships for emergency management across preparedness, prevention, response and recovery (PPRR).
- WALGA's submission supports the development of the Framework as an important milestone in the growing maturity of emergency management governance in Western Australia, noting that fundamental responsibility for emergency management rests with the State Government, and makes a number of recommendations, including that the Framework should:
 1. Seek to strengthen the decision-making and ownership of community across PPRR.
 2. Ensure equitable philanthropic funding to meet the needs of communities.
 3. Clarify the roles and responsibilities of philanthropic organisations across PPRR.
 4. Support LEMCs and DEMCs to identify, develop and maintain partnerships with philanthropic organisations.
 5. Incorporate an additional guiding principle based on building resilience.

Recommendation

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

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

Executive Summary

- On 25 August 2023, the Department of Communities (DoC) released the consultation paper 'WA Action Plan for Young People Consultation Paper'. WALGA obtained an extension to enable this draft submission to be considered by State Council and zones.
- The development of a new three-year whole-of-government Action Plan for Young People in Western Australia (the Action Plan), follows the expiry of the existing [Beyond 2020 WA Youth Action Plan 2020-22](#).
- The submission reflects WALGA's advocacy position on Children and Young People, the key issues for the sector on youth policy, and highlights case studies of best practice engagement with youth across the sector.
- The recommendations focus on the need to reflect the diversity of young peoples' needs across the State, the need for ongoing engagement and funding for initiatives, including those delivered by Local Governments, and the need for an evaluation process.

- The submission also restates the WALGA 2024-25 State Budget Submission call to prioritise the establishment of a Child Safeguarding Independent Oversight Body, increased State and Commonwealth funding for primary healthcare services and increased funding for libraries.

Recommendation

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

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Kate Johnson

Seconded: President Cr Dale Douglas

That the Great Southern Country Zone supports the following Matters for Decision as detailed in the State Council Agenda 6 December 2023 provided as Attachment No.7, inclusive of:

1. Item 7.1 2023 Annual General Meeting Resolutions
2. Item 7.2 Advocacy Position – Crown Land and Management Order Administration – Land Administration Act 1997
3. Item 7.3 Review of Public Open Space Advocacy Positions
4. Item 7.4 2024 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members
5. Item 7.5 Household Hazardous Waste Policy Statement and Advocacy Position
6. Item 7.6 Waste Education Policy Statement and Advocacy Position
7. Item 7.7 Submission E-Waste Landfill Ban Regulations
8. Item 7.8 Submission on Philanthropic Engagement Framework for Emergency Management
9. Item 7.9 Submission to the WA Action Plan for Young People Consultation Paper

CARRIED

9.2.1. Matters for Noting

State Council Agenda 'Matters for Noting', 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 Planning and Development Amendment Bill 2023 and Associated Regulations and guidelines
- 9.2 WALGA Emergency Management Survey 2023
- 9.3 WALGA Submission on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Legislation dated 26 September 2023 and Update
- 9.4 Legal Response to the Local Government Approaches to Tree Retention Issues Paper

- 9.5 Flying Minute: Submission to the Review of the Main Roads Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Guideline
- 9.6 Flying Minute: Draft Operational Policy 2.3: Planning for Public Open Space
- 9.7 Flying Minute: Submission on Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding arrangements
- 9.8 Flying Minute: Objection to the 2023 WA Electoral Distribution Commission Proposed Boundaries
- 9.9 Flying Minute: Submission on the Exposure Draft of the Recycling and Waste Reduction (Export – Paper and Cardboard) Rules 2023
- 9.10 Flying Minute: Submission on National Asbestos Strategic Plan
- 9.11 Flying Minute: Draft Code of Practice for On-Site Wastewater Disposal
- 9.12 Flying Minute: 2024-26 WALGA State Budget Submission

STATE COUNCIL Item 10 – Organisational Reports

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

RESOLUTION

Moved: Deputy President Cr Rebecca O’Meehan
Seconded: President Cr Kate Johnson

That the Great Southern Country Zone NOTES all Policy Team Reports, Matters for Noting and Organisational Reports as detailed in the State Council Agenda 6 December 2023.

CARRIED

9.2.2. WALGA State President’s Report

Attachment No. 7 WALGA State President’s Report (circulated separately)

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Len Handasyde
Seconded: President Cr Dale Douglas

That the Great Southern Country Zone NOTES the WALGA President’s Report – December 2023.

CARRIED

10. 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.

Shire of Plantagenet

- Housing project
- Stage 2 – Swimming Pool upgrade

Shire of Kojonup

- Expansion of Springhaven Lodge (aged care) – increase from 22 bed to 60 bed facility. Will need regional support to attract the necessary funding.
- Medical Services – high demand – under pressure.

City of Albany

- Mayor Stocks expressed appreciation for his election as Zone Deputy Chair and Deputy State Councillor.
- Bicentennial Celebrations planning is progression with funding bodies now being engaged. Originally expected 3 major events over the year, now 10 event submissions have been received, plus grassroots community events.
- Airport Upgrade (regional facility) planning. May require regional support for funding applications.
- Mounts Master Plan – funding being sought.
- JDAP to consider hotel proposal for Middleton Beach.
- Social and affordable housing project also expected to go to JDAP.
- Ring Road, including Chesters overpass, to be opened in 2024
- LPS 2 progressing (on Minister's desk)
- North Albany Structure Plan (urban infill)
- Motocross soon to open.

Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup

- Caravan Park Upgrade project
- Wind Farm – planning arrangements
- CBH upgrade – Broomehill
- 1 x fire already this season

Shire of Gnowangerup

- Acknowledged the contributions of the Shire's former Zone Delegates, former President Cr Fiona Gaze and former Deputy President Cr Greg Stewart.
- Wind Farm developments – looking to work collaboratively across the Zone.
- CBH Borden upgrade
- Extended thanks to Shire of Jerramungup for sharing Bush Fire Mitigation officer position.
- 1 x fire already this season.
- Mountain Music Muster (Caravan Event)

Shire of Katanning

- Extended thanks to former President Cr Liz Guidera and Cr John Goodheart for their work at the Zone.
- Regional University Hub project – will be seeking regional support.
- Main Oval refurbishment – funding application.

Shire of Kent

- Housing constraints
- Wind farm planning arrangements
- CBH transport routes.

11. NEXT ZONE MEETING

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

- **23 February 2024 at the Shire of Cranbrook**

12. CLOSURE

The meeting closed at **12.06pm.**

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT No.2 Refers Item 6.8 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Update November 2023

[Back to Item 6.8](#)



Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Report

November 2023

Local Government Act Reform

- On 18 May 2023, the Local Government Amendment Bill 2023 was passed as the Local Government Amendment Act 2023 and assented to by the Governor.
- A number of electoral reforms, including optional preferential voting and backfilling extraordinary vacancies, will take effect for the 2023 elections.
- A number of provisions have now taken effect including –
 - parental leave for council members
 - the ability of a local government to apply for a compliance exemption
 - removal of the ability for a council to waive an interest relating to an electoral gift
 - changes to special electors' meetings to increase the number of signatures required to hold a meeting (from 100 to 300) and provide for a mayor or president to prevent a meeting from being held on the same subject more than once in a 12-month period
 - the requirement to record in minutes the individual votes of council and committee members.
- Over 60 Governor's orders for local governments and a population estimates order were gazetted on 30 June 2023, giving effect to the reforms to representation based on population data at the upcoming 2023 local government elections.
- In addition, regulations to support implementation of these reforms have been finalised and are also now in effect.
- On 30 June 2023 regulation amendments were introduced ahead of the October 2023 elections to:
 - prescribe classes of local governments (in alignment with the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal band system)
 - abolish wards for class 3 and 4 local governments
 - require elector mayors for class 1 and 2 local governments.
- Additional regulation amendments are being progressed, with the next set of regulations anticipated to be published in October 2023 that include:
 - owners and occupiers enrolment reforms
 - livestreaming and recording requirements for council meetings

- payment and reimbursement for council member professional development and training
 - fair value amendments.
- The DLGSC is providing ongoing updates to the sector in relation to these reforms as part of LG Alerts and monthly reform webinars.
- Other regulations reforms are being rolled out in 2024, including integrated planning and reporting, standardised meeting procedures, online registers and local government CEO KPIs and reporting.
- Further information in relation to these reforms are on the DLGSC website.
- DLGSC is running a series of monthly webinars and deep dives into specific topics regarding the reforms - look out for LG Alerts for more details.
- If you would like a link to recordings of previous webinars, this is available on [DLGSC website under local government reforms](#)
- DLGSC has also teamed up with LG Pro to deliver a series of monthly capacity-building webinars.

Model Financial Statements (MFS) and Financial

- Model Financial Statements (MFS) for Class 1 and 2, plus a reduced version for smaller local governments (Class 3 and 4) are now published on the DLGSC website.
- An LG alert was issued on Tuesday 16 May 2023 advising of their availability.
- The MFS will apply to 2022-23 annual financial statement reports.
- Guidelines have also been developed to accompany the MFS.
- A first tranche of regulatory amendments for the MFS commenced on 1 July 2022.
- A second tranche of regulatory amendments for the MFS commenced on 1 July 2023.
- The 1 September 2023 version of the Local government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 includes the new credit card regulation 13A.

Contact LG Accounting for queries – Lg.accounting@dlgsc.wa.gov.au

Management Regulations Amendments

- Model Financial Statements (MFS) for Bands 1 and 2, plus a reduced version for smaller local governments (Bands 3 and 4) are now published on the DLGSC website.
- An LG alert was issued on Tuesday 15 May 2023 advising of their availability.
- The MFS will apply to 2022-23 annual financial statement reports.
- Guidelines have also been developed to accompany the MFS.
- A first tranche of regulatory amendments for the MFS commenced on 1 July 2022.

- A second tranche of regulatory amendments for the MFS are currently being drafted and are anticipated to be gazetted by 30 June 2023.
- DLGSC has received feedback from LG Professionals and WALGA with the proposed second tranche of regulatory amendments to support the introduction of the MFS and improved transparency in financial reporting obligations.
- Contact LG Accounting for queries – lgaccounting@dlgsc.wa.gov.au

Local Government (Functions and General) Amendment Regulations 1996

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

Rural GP and Dentists tender exemption

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

Novation of Contracts

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

Dental leasing exemption

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

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

Local Government Grants Commission

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

Stop Puppy Farming

- The Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2021 was passed by the Parliament in December 2021.
- The new laws, including for the registration and breeding of dogs, will take some time to implement.
- There will be consultation with stakeholders, including local governments, for the design and development of a centralised registration system (CRS) for dogs and cats covered under the *Dog Act 1976* and the *Cat Act 2011*, and for the development of regulations to give legal effect to the functions of the CRS.
- The DLGSC conducted engagement activities with local governments in the second half of 2022. Through this, local government requirements for the CRS were captured for inclusion within the system requirements and scope.
- Progression towards procurement of the CRS and scoping of the regulations is underway. The Request for Tender for the CRS was released to the market on 24 January closed on 8 March 2023.
- The DLGSC evaluated responses throughout March and April 2023. Consensus was reached in May 2023 and the tender evaluation report was endorsed by the State Revenue Committee in July 2023.
- Negotiations with the preferred respondent were finalised in September 2023. The Discovery and Design phase of CRS implementation will commence mid-October

2023. This phase is expected to run until March 2024. DLGSC is working towards implementing the CRS in June 2024.

- The DLGSC is continuing to engage with key stakeholders to support ongoing progress towards the reforms.
- A discussion paper is currently being considered by the Minister for Local Government and further information regarding the release will be provided in due course.

DLGSC Contacts

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

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT No.3 Refers Item 7.2 Great Southern Country Zone Status Report – November 2023

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Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Grt Southern C	17 February 2023 Zone Agenda Item 5.9. National Recovery and Resilience Agency	That the Great Southern Country Zone requests WALGA to survey Local Governments to quantify the impact to Local Government of Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements WA reimbursement delays, including for each affected Local Government the \$ value and timeframe for which reimbursements have been outstanding / delayed, and for WALGA to advocate to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services expedite resolution of this issue.	The WALGA biennial Emergency Management survey was distributed in November and includes specific questions in relation to DRFAWA claims and approvals.	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Grt Southern C	25 November 2022 Zone Agenda Item 6 Confirmation of Previous Minutes	That the Great Southern Zone requests WALGA to advocate for the upgrade of existing infrastructure [telecommunication] (towers).	<p>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.</p> <p>Met with DPIRD Executive to emphasize the importance of telecommunications, specifically mobile services, in regional and peri-urban Local Government areas and encouraged continuation of the collective approach to leverage Federal and industry investment into WA.</p>	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Grt Southern C	25 November 2022 Zone Agenda Item 6.2 Zone Status Report	That the Great Southern Zone request WALGA to advocate for a review of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA, WA) to reduce the extensive delays in the reporting system.	<p>A series of webinars and in person meetings have been conducted to enable senior officers from DFES and NEMA to hear directly from Local Governments the shortcomings of the current claims and approvals processes. These meetings will continue through November.</p> <p>The WALGA biennial Emergency Management survey was distributed in November and includes specific questions in relation to DRFAWA claims and approvals.</p>	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031

Great Southern Country Zone
MINUTES 24 November 2023

Grt Southern C	25 August 2023 Zone Agenda Item 7.3.1 Western Power Headworks – Lead time for quotes	That the Great Southern Country Zone request WALGA advocacy to State Government to reduce the time taken for Western Power to provide quotes to a maximum of three months.	An update will be provided to the Zone at the next meeting.	November 2023	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Grt Southern C	17 February 2023 Zone Agenda Item 5.9. National Recovery and Resilience Agency	That the Great Southern Country Zone requests WALGA to survey Local Governments to quantify the impact to Local Government of Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements WA reimbursement delays, including for each affected Local Government the \$ value and timeframe for which reimbursements have been outstanding / delayed, and for WALGA to advocate to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services expedite resolution of this issue.	The WALGA biennial Emergency Management survey was distributed in November and includes specific questions in relation to DRFAWA claims and approvals.	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031

ATTACHMENT No.4 Refers Item 7.2.1 Great Southern Country Action Items Report – June 2023

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Great Southern Country Zone – ACTION ITEMS				
ZONE MEETING DATE / ITEM	ZONE RESOLUTION	ZONE RESPONSE	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
2023, 25 August Item 7.1.2 Zone Australian Taxation Office Authorised Contact	That the WALGA Great Southern Country Zone advise the Australian Taxation Office that the Zone’s authorised contacts are to be amended as follows: 1. REVOKE all previous authorised contacts, including Annabel Paully; and 2. AUTHORISE the following WA Local Government Association employees as authorised contacts: a. Rick Murray, Chief Financial Officer b. Nilpa Shah-Smith, Finance Manager c. Roselyn Fogg, Governance Specialist	24 Nov 2023 – ATO records were confirmed as updated on 21 Sept 2023.	COMPLETED GSCZ – 24/11/2023	Zone Executive Officer Lyn Fogg
2023, 25 August Item 7.3.1 Western Power Headworks – Lead Time for Quotes	That the Great Southern Country Zone request WALGA advocacy to State Government to reduce the time taken for Western Power to provide quotes to a maximum of three months.	24 Nov 2023 the Zone’s resolution will be considered at the December State Council meeting and has been referred to the Infrastructure team in the interim. This item will therefore subsequently appear on the Zone’s Status Report.	COMPLETED GSCZ – 24/11/2023	WALGA Governance Support Officer Chantelle O’Brien
2023, 25 August Item 7.3.1 Western Power Headworks – Lead Time for Quotes	ACTION ITEM: Shire of Katanning to provide a Zone report detailing similar concerns arising from Landgate processes. Shires of Kojonup and Gnowangerup to contribute examples for inclusion in this report.	6 Sep 2023: Emailed Katanning CEO.		Zone Executive Officer Lyn Fogg
2022, 26 Aug 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	Working Group Terms of Reference conclude as at 28 October 2022. GSCZ 28/10/2022 - 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. 23 June 2023 – Phase 3 of the EY consultancy has been completed (business case submitted to Dpt of Home Affairs). Working Group will be wound up subject to any additional work required	ONGOING	DAMA Working Group (Zone)

Great Southern Country Zone – ACTION ITEMS				
ZONE MEETING DATE / ITEM	ZONE RESOLUTION	ZONE RESPONSE	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
	<p>(b) Prepare a draft budget and scope of works for the business case and prepare a shortlist of suitable contractors to quote on the business case by 17 Oct 2022.</p> <p>3. Prepare the final report with recommendations for the next Great Southern Country Zone meeting on Friday, 28 October 2022.</p> <p>The meeting AGREED that the DAMA Working Group meetings should include representation from the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) and Regional Development Australia Great Southern (RDA-GS)</p>	<p>following feedback from the Dept / Minister – expected late June 2023.</p>		
<p>2022, 28 Oct Item 7.2.4 Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) Project</p>	<p>7. Endorse the Shire of Kojonup CEO and the Regional Development Authority Great Southern Inc CEO to act jointly as the Zone representatives for communication between the consultant and the Zone and member Local Governments to facilitate preparation of the Business Plan.</p>	<p>21 April 2023: Phase 1 and 2 of the EY consultancy have been completed – refer DAMA Working Group and RDAGS reports at the April 2023 meeting.</p> <p>23 June 2023 – Phase 3 of the EY consultancy has been completed (business case submitted to Dpt of Home Affairs). Item completion will be subject to any additional work required following feedback from the Dept / Minister – expected late June 2023.</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS</p>	<p>Kojonup CEO RDAGS CEO</p>
<p>2023, 23 June Item 7.1.6 LG Agricultural Freight Group Contributions</p>	<p>1. Approves payment of \$941.48 (ex.GST) to the Avon-Midland Country Zone as contribution to the administration of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group for the 2021/2022 and 2022/23 financial year; and</p> <p>2. Notes that the Zone’s Budget and member subscription levies will be submitted for review at the August 2023 Zone meeting.</p>	<p>25 August 2023 – Invoice payments have been processed. Refer August meeting papers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 5.5 re status of the LGAFG; and • Item 7.1.1 re levying Zone subscription fees 		