



Pilbara Country Zone

Minutes

23 August 2021

Pilbara Country Zone

Hosted by MS Teams

Videoconference

Monday 23 August 2021, commenced at 11:32 am

Minutes

MEMBERS

2 Voting Delegates from each Member Council

City of Karratha	Mayor Peter Long - Chair Cr Daniel Scott Mr Chris Adams, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Town of Port Hedland	Deputy Mayor Renae Coles Mr Carl Askew, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of East Pilbara	President Cr Anthony Middleton Cr Wendy McWhirter-Brooks Mr Steven Harding, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Ashburton	Cr Linton Rumble (Deputy) Mr Kenn Donohoe, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
WALGA Secretariat	Tim Lane, Manager Strategy and Association Governance Chantelle O'Brien, Governance Support Officer
DLGSC Representative	Simone Fountain, Regional Manager - Pilbara

APOLOGIES

Town of Port Hedland	Mayor Peter Carter
Shire of Ashburton	President Cr Kerry White

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zone Delegates were requested to provide sufficient written notice, wherever possible, on amendments to recommendations within the State Council or Zone agenda prior to the Zone meeting to the Chair and Secretariat.

Agenda Papers were emailed 7 days prior to the meeting date to your Council for distribution to Zone Delegates.

Confirmation of Attendance attendance and apologies were noted prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Acknowledgement of Country All attendees acknowledged the traditional owners of the land that the meeting is held on and paying respects to Elders past, present and future.

ATTACHMENTS WITH THE AGENDA

1. Previous Minutes
2. President's Report
3. Status Report

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Elected Members must declare to the Chairman 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 are affected by these recommendations, please excuse yourself from the meeting and do not participate in deliberations.

Nil

2. DEPUTATIONS

Nil

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Linton Rumble
Seconded: Cr Daniel Scott

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Pilbara Country Zone held on 28 June 2021 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 Status Report

A Status Report outlining the actions taken on the Zone's resolutions was enclosed as an attachment within the Agenda.

Noted

5. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION

(Zone delegates to consider the Matters for Decision contained in the WA Local Government Association State Council Agenda and put forward resolutions to Zone Representatives on State Council)

The full State Council Agenda can be found via link: [State Council Agenda 3 September 2021](#)

The Zone is able to provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation that is then presented to the State Council for consideration.

Matters for Decision

5.1 External Oversight of Local Level Complaints

That WALGA advocate for an external oversight model for local level behavioural complaints made under Council Member, Committee Member and Candidate Codes of Conduct, that is closely aligned to the Victorian Councillor Complaints Framework.

5.2 Tender Exemption Provisions – General Practitioner Services

That WALGA:

1. Adopt a new Advocacy Position Statement under 'Local Government Legislation - Tender Exemption General Practitioner Services':

WALGA advocates for the inclusion of a tender exemption for General Practitioner (GP) services under Part 4, Division 2 of the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996, to support Local Governments to secure and retain necessary primary health care services for their communities; and

2. Undertake additional research in support of the Advocacy Position with the following aims:
 - a. Identify State and Federal Government policy settings and other factors contributing to gaps in primary health care services in regional communities; and
 - b. Quantify the number of regional Local Governments that have current contracts, or are proposing to enter into contracts, for General Practitioner services and the associated costs to Local Government incurred.

5.3 Phase 2 Planning Reform Submission

That the submission to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage on Phase 2 Planning Reform be endorsed.

Matters for Noting

- 6.1 Stop Puppy Farming Legislation
- 6.2 Regional Telecommunications Resilience
- 6.3 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC)
- 6.4 2021-22 State Budget Submission
- 6.5 WALGA Submission: Inquiry into the Delivery of Ambulance Services in Western Australia

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Daniel Scott
Seconded: Cr Wendy McWhirter-Brooks

That the Pilbara Country Zone

1. **Supports all Matters for Decision as listed above in the September 2021 State Council Agenda; and**
2. **Notes all Matters for Noting and Organisational Reports as listed in the September 2021 State Council Agenda.**

CARRIED

6. BUSINESS

6.1 Social Housing Economic Recovery Package Grant Funding

By Kelly McManus, Principal Policy and Advocacy WALGA

BACKGROUND

The \$319 million [Social Housing Economic Recovery Package \(SHERP\)](#) is part of the State Government's COVID-19 Recovery Plan announced in June 2021.

The Program aims to provide safe and secure housing outcomes for vulnerable Western Australians by supporting the construction of new community housing properties and the refurbishment of existing properties to extend their useful life or increase their capacity. Grants are also available to fund maintenance works within remote Aboriginal communities.

Local Governments are eligible to apply for SHERP grants and partner with existing social housing providers and community groups within their communities.

The next round of SHERP funding opens on Monday 1 September 2021.

COMMENT

Further information on the eligibility requirements and application process for the SHERP grants will be provided by the Department of Communities at a webinar to be hosted by WALGA on **Monday 1 September** from 1.30pm – 2.30pm.

Local Government officers wishing to attend the register for the Webinar [here](#) or through the [WALGA events page](#).

The Livestream presentation from the 11th August is available to view on the Department of Communities website and provides valuable information about the grant process.

In preparation for the session, we encourage local governments to:
Visit the Department of Communities website on the 1st September to familiarise yourself with the grant guidelines, application process and frequently asked questions.

Submit any questions you have in advance through the registration form. There will also be the opportunity to ask additional questions on the day.

Further information on the SHERP program is available on the [Department of Communities website](#) or by contacting Kelly McManus, Principal Policy and Advocacy, WALGA on 0429 483 273 or kmcmanus@walga.asn.au.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Linton Rumble
Seconded: Cr Wendy McWhirter-Brooks

That the Zone notes:

- **Local Governments are eligible for grants to support the construction, refurbishment and maintenance of community housing properties as part of the State Government's Social Housing Economic Recovery Package (SHERP) Program.**
- **The next round of SHERP grants open on Monday 1 September 2021.**
- **The Department of Communities will provide further information on the SHERP grants at a WALGA webinar to be held at 1:30pm on Monday 1 September.**

CARRIED

6.2 Regional Telecommunications Review

By Jo Burges, Senior Advisor Intergovernmental Relations and Risk, WALGA

BACKGROUND

A Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee (the Committee) is established every three years under Part 9B of the *Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999* to conduct a review into telecommunications services in regional, rural and remote parts of Australia.

The Committee for the 2021 Regional Telecommunications Review (the Review) was appointed on 1 June 2021.

The 2021 Committee is comprised of the Hon Luke Hartsuyker (Chair); Ms Kristy Sparrow; Professor Hugh Bradlow; Mr Michael Cosgrave; and Ms Sue Middleton.

The Committee is also conducting consultation sessions and as the dates for these are announced via their website Local Governments within the area being consulted are being advised via email of the upcoming process and encouraged to participate.

As part of the Review, the Committee will consider:

- the impact of Government policies and programs to improve regional connectivity and digital inclusion;
- insights from COVID-19 on the changing digital needs of regional, rural and remote areas;
- service reliability issues which impact regional communities and options for mitigating them;
- the role of emerging technologies in delivering telecommunications services in regional Australia;

- ways of encouraging further investment in regional telecommunications;
- the role of telecommunications in supporting broader regional development goals;
- ways to improve co-ordination between government and industry in telecommunications investment; and
- consumer awareness and education regarding telecommunications options in regional areas.

The full Terms of Reference for the Review are at Appendix B of the Issues Paper.

The Consultation Period runs from 6 July, 2021 09:00 to September 30, 2021 with WALGA receiving submissions until COB Thursday 16 September 2021.

WALGA Engagement Process

Local Governments were advised in mid-July, via Councillor Direct, of the appointment of the Committee and the release of the Issues Paper, and that WALGA would be developing a sector wide submission.

WALGA, in developing a submission to this important review is seeking the views of members to address the wide range of telecommunications issues outlined by the Committee in the Regional Telecommunications Review 2021 – Issues Paper (the Issues Paper).

<https://www.communications.gov.au>

Local Governments have been requested to provide their submissions or information to inform the sector wide submission to the Association to ensure all matters are addressed.

This agenda item provides a Zone level opportunity to provide feedback to the WALGA submission to assist in ensuring all Local Governments have had a chance for input.

COMMENT

Zones are requested, however not limited to, consider the items outlined at the dot points and /or the individual questions outlined at the end of each section or at Appendix A of the Issues Paper or provide input on any related matter for inclusion in the submission.

By way of example the WALGA Submission will include, in part, commentary on Question 12 that asks:

‘How can different levels of Government, the telecommunications industry and regional communities better co-ordinate their efforts to improve telecommunications in regional Australia?’

The Association response will include an example of the Regional Telecommunications Resilience Working Group established in May comprising key planning/technical staff from Telstra, Optus, Western Power, Horizon Power, WALGA, DFES and DPIRD. This working group will share data more openly to allow robust and coordinated planning which results in better overall service delivery and value for money for all concerned. The working group began its work in June 2021 and have scheduled monthly meetings that increase as Funding programs or issues emerge.

WALGA advocates on specific issues identified by its members at the Working Group, in particular to explore opportunities for sustainable solutions e.g. Stand Alone Power provision, utilising a combination of solar, batteries and generators.

The Association is keen to provide a comprehensive submission on this important matter and welcomes Zone input.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Linton Rumble
Seconded: Cr Anthony Middleton

That the Pilbara Country Zone;

1. Notes the Regional Telecommunication Review 2021; and

2. Provides the following input to the WALGA submission:

- Request the Federal Government to fulfill the commitment of full mobile coverage on the North West Coastal Highway.
- Request the Federal Government to ensure that the drawdown of data, particularly from autonomous vehicles used by the mining sector, doesn't compromise the quality and reliability of service.

CARRIED

6.3 2021 Local Government Elections – Zone Office Bearer Elections

By Chantelle O'Brien, Zone Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

With the bi annual Local Government elections being held Saturday, 16 October 2021, Zones will also be required to hold an election process for State Council representatives.

A chronological overview of the process is detailed below:

- Local Government elections occur on Saturday, 16 October 2021.
- Member Councils to elect/appoint their Zone Delegates and to advise the Zone Executive Officer, as soon as possible but preferably by 5 November 2021.
- For the purpose of electing their representatives and deputy representatives to the WALGA State Council, the zones are required to hold these elections at their November 2021 meeting.
- Zones to advise WALGA, in writing, of their elected State Council representative and deputy representative immediately following the 2021 November Zone meeting.
- State Councillor Induction Session – morning of **1 December 2021**.
- New State Council will take office at the Ordinary Meeting of State Council on **1 December 2021**.
- The position of President and Deputy President of WALGA, will be elected at the March 2022 State Council Meeting.

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

1. *Zone Executive Officer to write to all Member Councils no later than 1 month prior to the Zone meeting at which the election is to be held calling for nominations from delegates to the Zone for the positions of representative and deputy representative to State Council. The correspondence is to state that all nominations are to be made in writing to the Zone Executive Officer, and only Elected Members who are a nominated Zone delegates are eligible to nominate. The time period for the receipt of nominations is to be **one week prior** to the Zone meeting at which the election will be held.*
2. *Zone Executive Officer to receive written nominations from Zone delegates for the positions of representative and deputy representative to State Council and then provide written confirmation to Member Councils of the nominations received.*

3. *Elections are to be held at the next Zone meeting as the first item of business. Where there is more than one nomination for each vacant position, an election will be conducted using a secret ballot, with the Zone Executive Officer to represent WALGA as the returning officer for the election. Prior to the ballot, nominees for each position are to be extended the opportunity to provide a 2 minute election bid to delegates.*
4. *All voting delegates to the Zone are entitled to cast one (1) vote in the ballot process. The candidate with the greater or greatest number of votes is elected to the office.*
5. **Tied vote** – *in the event of a tied vote, election will be determined by drawing names from a box. The Secretariat will put the names of the candidates concerned in a box and the first name drawn is the Elected Member.*
6. *Zone Executive Officer to advise WALGA in writing immediately following the Zone meeting of the outcome of their elections.*

If you have any questions or require further information in relation to the above mentioned process, please contact Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services on 9213 2051 or email tbrown@walga.asn.au.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Daniel Scott
Seconded: Cr Wendy McWhirter-Brooks

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

CARRIED

6.4 Office of the Auditor General

The Office of the Auditor General has offered to present at a future Zone meeting, as follows:

The Office of the Auditor General is now responsible for all WA Local Government and regional council financial audits. If your zone has any questions about our financial audit process or performance audit program/reports, we would be happy to provide a presentation at one of your future meetings.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Linton Rumble
Seconded: Cr Daniel Scott

That the Pilbara Country Zone INVITES a representative from the Office of the Auditor General to present at a future meeting.

CARRIED

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

8. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

8.1 President's Report to the Zone

The WALGA representative, Tim Lane, presented the President's Report.

Noted

8.2 State Councillor's report to the Zone

WALGA State Councillor, Mayor Peter Long, presented on the previous State Council meeting.

Noted

8.3 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Representative Update Report.

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries representative Simone Fountain, provided an update the Zone. Simone commented on the following:

- Gascoyne Games - <https://www.exmouth.wa.gov.au/events/gascoyne-games-2021/437>
- A link is available for a webinar held with the Director General, Ms Lanie Chopping - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vBUwwEZFX8>

Noted

9. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Linton Rumble
Seconded: Cr Daniel Scott

That the next ordinary meeting of the Pilbara Country Zone be held on Monday, 22 November 2021, hosted by Shire of Ashburton in Tom Price, commencing at 11.30am.

CARRIED

10. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12.11pm.