

MINUTES OF THE ZONE MEETING

held at the Calingiri Sportsground Pavilion, Chitty Avenue, Calingiri
Friday 25 November 2022 commencing at 10:15 am

1 OPENING & WELCOME

The Zone President and Chair of the meeting, Cr Ken Seymour, welcomed delegates and observers and asked attendees to introduce themselves. Cr Seymour introduced Cr Pauline Bantock, President Shire of Victoria Plains. Cr Bantock welcomed delegates to Calingiri and introduced Mr Sean Fletcher, A/CEO Shire of Victoria Plains who gave a presentation "The Journey Begins" highlighting the Shire's work on an effective organisational structure, building the team that is Council and senior management, how to do more with what we have and doing what we say we will do

2 ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

Delegates -

Cr Ken Seymour	Shire of Moora (President)
Cr Denese Smythe	Shire of York (Deputy President) (via video)
Cr Mary Angus	Shire of Chittering
Cr Keith Carter	Shire of Dalwallinu (via video)
Cr Linda Balcombe	Shire of Gingin (via video)
Cr Chris Antonio	Shire of Northam
Cr Rosemary Madacsi	Shire of Toodyay
Cr Pauline Bantock	Shire of Victoria Plains
Cr Dwight Coad	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu

Observers –

Ms Melinda Prinsloo	Shire of Chittering
Mr Aaron Cook	Shire of Gingin (via video)
Mr Peter Bentley	Shire of Goomalling (via video)
Cr Tracy Lefroy	Shire of Moora
Cr Beth Ruthven	Shire of Toodyay
Mr Hugo de Vos	Shire of Toodyay
Cr Suzanne Woods	Shire of Victoria Plains
Cr Gary O'Brien	Shire of Victoria Plains
Mr Sean Fletcher	Shire of Victoria Plains
Ms Vikki Barlow	Senior Policy Advisor Community, WALGA
Ms Richa Sharnie	Intern, WALGA
Mr Cliff Simpson	Regional Road Safety Advisor, WALGA
Ms Elise Woods	Director Lumen Wheatbelt Regional University Centre, RDA Wheatbelt Inc
Ms Trish Edgar	A/Director Regulatory Reform, Dept of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries (via video)
Mr Mohammad Siddiqui	Regional Manager, Wheatbelt Region, Main Roads WA
Mr Suvrat Patel	A/Network Manager, Wheatbelt Region, Main Roads WA
Ms Annette Balmer	Recovery Support Officer, Wheatbelt & Mid Goldfields Region, National Emergency Management Agency
Robert Dew	Zone Executive Officer

2.2 Apologies

Cr Barry Haywood	Shire of Goomalling
Cr Julie Williams	Shire of Northam
Mr J Whiteaker	Shire of Northam
Cr Beth Ruthven	Shire of Toodyay
Ms Suzie Haslehurst	Shire of Toodyay
Cr Stuart Boekeman	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
Mr Chris Linnell	Shire of York
Ms Susie Moir	Policy Manager Resilient Communities, WALGA

Mr Mandy Walker	Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt Inc
Mr Murray Carter	Executive Director, Rural Fire Division, Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Ms Samantha Cornthwaite	Regional Manager Wheatbelt, Dept of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries
Ms Melissa Spark	Wheatbelt Regional Manager, WA Primary Health Alliance
Hon Mia Davies MLA	Member for Central Wheatbelt
Mr Shane Love MLA	Member for Moore
Hon Martin Aldridge MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Sandra Carr MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Steve Martin MLC	Member for Agricultural Region

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

5 MINUTES

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Zone Meeting held 26 August 2022 at Jurien Bay. Copies of these Minutes have been circulated to all member Councils.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held on 26 August 2022, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.

RESOLUTION

Cr C Antonio moved and Cr R Madacsi seconded –

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held on 27 June 2022, as printed and circulated, be confirmed. **CARRIED**

5.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

(a) Wheatbelt Health Services (6.1)

Last meeting requested Zone members to provide feedback to the Zone on State Government health services that are being provided by local government. At the time of writing, no responses had been received from Zone members.

Delegates may care to comment on issues to be raised with the health representatives later in the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

For Discussion

NOTED

(b) Other

No other matters were brought forward.

6 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

6.1 WALGA State Council Agenda

Review of the Agenda for the meeting of State Council to be held Wednesday 7 December 2022. The Zone is able to provide comment or submit alternate recommendations to State Council for consideration.

Matters for Decision

5.1 2022 Annual General Meeting Resolutions (Page 5)

WALGA Recommendation

That:

1. *the following resolutions from the 2022 WALGA Annual General Meeting be endorsed for action:*
 - 3.8 *Review of the Rating Methodology used by the Valuer-General*
Advocate for a full review of the rating methodology used by the Valuer-General to value all land in the State of Western Australia.
 - 3.10 *Reform of the Cat Act 2011*
That the WA Local Government sector requests the WA State Government prioritise reforms to the Cat Act 2011, in accordance with the Statutory Review undertaken and tabled in the State Parliament on 27 November 2019.
2. *the following resolutions from the 2022 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the relevant Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:*
 - 3.1 *Road Traffic Issues*
That WALGA advocate on behalf of the local government sector to the State Government and in particular, Main Roads, to increase importance and weight given to local knowledge and input regarding road traffic issues including requests for speed reduction, intersection treatments and overall preventative and traffic safety measures.
 - 3.2 *Car Parking and Traffic Congestion Around Schools*
That WALGA engages with the State Government on behalf of Local Government to review issues associated with car parking and traffic congestion around school sites including but not limited to:
 1. *Reviewing car parking standards for schools;*
 2. *Ensuring sufficient land is set aside for the provision of parking on school sites;*
 3. *Reviewing the co-location of schools to avoid issues being exacerbated;*
 4. *Restricting school access from major roads;*
 5. *Developing plans to enable schools to manage school traffic;*
 6. *Develop programs to educate drivers; and*
 7. *Develop options and implement initiatives to encourage alternative modes of transport to school.*
 - 3.3 *Proposal for Regional Road Maintenance Contracts with Main Roads WA*
That WALGA assist Local Governments and work with the Hon Minister Rita Saffioti to introduce a similar program that is currently in play in Queensland and introduce a sole invitee Program for Local Governments to engage in a Road Maintenance Performance Contract with Main Roads WA.
 - 3.4 *Northern Australia Beef Roads Program*
That WALGA work with the Hon Madeleine King MP Minister for Resources and Minister for Northern Australia to make Beef Road Funding available to all Australian Local Governments north and south, or establish a Southern Australia Beef Road Funding Program to allow for equitable support across Australia's beef and agriculture industries.

3.5 3D House Printing Building Compliance

That WALGA requests:

1. *Assistance from Minister for Industry and Science The Hon Ed Husic MP, Minister for Housing and Homelessness, Small Business The Hon Julie Collins MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government The Hon Catherine King MP to work with Ministers from all State and Territory Governments who have Building and Construction in their portfolios, to collaborate and to consider removing impediments within the National Construction Code Series and associated Australian Standards, that dissuade industry from adopting 3D printing as a building method.*
2. *That the Government provide instruments to incentivise private industry to develop 3D printing and include this as an acceptable building practice.*

3.6 South West Native Title Settlement

That WALGA advocate to the State Government that Local Governments be provided with the full list of potential land to be requested for transfer as part of the South West Native Title Settlement and that a minimum of three months be provided for Council to provide feedback.

3.7 Land Offset Compensation to Local Governments

That WALGA advocate to the State Government that the Developer requiring land offsets should be required to provide the offsets within the Local Government where the clearing occurs and where this is not possible, the Developer requiring land offsets within another Local Government be required to pay a fee to the Local Government for the loss of rates and ongoing maintenance of infrastructure to the Land.

3.12.1 Abandoned Shopping Trolleys

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

3. the following resolutions from the 2022 WALGA Annual General Meeting be noted:

3.11 WALGA Best Practice Governance Review – Principles

That:

1. *The update on the Best Practice Governance Review project be noted, and*
2. *The principles to inform WALGA's future governance model, as follows and as per the attached Principles document, be endorsed:*
 - a. *Representative – WALGA unites and represents the entire Local Government sector in WA and understands the diverse nature and needs of members, regional communities and economies.*
 - b. *Responsive – WALGA is an agile association which acts quickly to respond to the needs of members and stakeholders.*
 - c. *Results Oriented – WALGA dedicates resources and efforts to secure the best outcomes for Local Government and supports the delivery of high-quality projects, programs and services.*

3.12.2 Mandatory Superannuation for Elected Members in Band 1 and 2 Councils

That this meeting supports requesting WALGA to advocate for the Local Government reforms to include mandatory superannuation for elected members of Band 1 and Band 2 Councils and supports the optional payment of superannuation for Band 3 and 4 Councils.

WALGA Executive Summary

- WALGA's 2022 Annual General Meeting was held on Monday, 3 October 2022.
- The meeting resolved for WALGA to act in relation to 11 member motions (including two items of Special Urgent Business):
 1. Road Traffic Issues
 2. Car Parking and Traffic Congestion Around Schools
 3. Proposal for Regional Road Maintenance Contracts with Main Roads WA
 4. Northern Australian Beef Roads Program
 5. 3D House Printing Building Compliance
 6. South West Native Title Settlement
 7. Land Offset Compensation to Local Governments
 8. Review of the Rating Methodology used by the Valuer-General

9. Reform of the *Cat Act 2011*

10. Abandoned Shopping Trolleys

11. Mandatory Superannuation for Elected Members in Band 1 and 2 Councils

- The meeting also resolved to endorse the Governance Principles proposed as part of the WALGA Best Practice Governance Review Project.
- The action taken or proposed to be taken in relation to each of the resolutions since the Annual General Meeting has been summarised for State Council's information.
- Item 3.12.2 (Mandatory Superannuation for Elected Members in Band 1 and 2 Councils) is considered in a separate item for decision (see Agenda item 5.2).

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.2 Elected Member Superannuation (Page 12)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA:

1. *advocates for superannuation to be required to be paid to Elected Members of Local Governments in Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) Band 1 and Band 2; and*
2. *supports the position that superannuation payments to Elected Members of Local Governments in SAT Band 3 and Band 4 should be optional and determined by Council.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- At the 2022 WALGA Annual General Meeting a motion was endorsed requesting WALGA to advocate for superannuation to be required to be paid to Elected Members in Local Governments in SAT Band 1 and Band 2.
- Consultation with the 44 affected Local Governments in Band 1 and Band 2 was subsequently undertaken, which confirmed support for the proposal.
- Accordingly, this item recommends that WALGA adopts a policy position, and advocates to the Minister for Local Government, that superannuation should be required to be paid to Elected Members of Band 1 and Band 2 Local Governments.

Cr C Antonio foreshadowed that the Shire of Northam was preparing an item on elected member superannuation for consideration by the Zone.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.3 Biosecurity Advocacy Position (Page 14)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council endorse replacing Advocacy Position 4.5 Post Border Biosecurity with a new Biosecurity Advocacy Position as follows:

4.5 Biosecurity

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

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

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

To be effective the Western Australian biosecurity system must:

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

WALGA Executive Summary

- It is proposed that the 2017 Biosecurity Advocacy Position, 4.5 *Post Border Biosecurity* be replaced with a more comprehensive and contemporary position.
- The 2017 position called for a review of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (BAM Act)* which is currently underway.
- The new Draft Biosecurity Position reflects feedback provided on the WALGA Biosecurity Discussion Paper recommendations by Local Governments and WALGA Zones.
- The new position will inform WALGA's advocacy in the next stages of the BAM Act Review.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

Cr C Antonio left the meeting at 11:15 am

5.4 Submission on Environmental Regulation Reform: A Strategic Review of Regulatory Delivery and Fees for Industry Regulation (Page 18)

WALGA Recommendation

That the submission on Environmental Regulation Reform: A Strategic Review of Regulatory Delivery and Fees for Industry Regulation be endorsed.

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's Environmental Regulation Reform: A Strategic Review of Regulatory Delivery and Fees for Industry Regulation Discussion Paper was released on 12 September for a three month consultation period.
- The Paper includes a range of high-level regulatory reform concepts which will impact premises currently regulated under Schedule 1 of the Environmental Protection Regulations 1987 and various fee model options.

- WALGA's submission has been informed by several engagement sessions with the sector.
- WALGA's submission provides high level support for many of the reform concepts, identifies the need for further consultation on the detail of how the reforms will be implemented and highlights the need for a DWER to be actively regulating all premises with potentially negative impacts on human health and the environment.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

The meeting noted with concern the number of appeals being lodged against the granting of roadside clearing permits and the significant costs and time being incurred by local governments in dealing with these appeals. While acknowledging that any person should be able to appeal against the grant, conditions or amendment of a clearing permit the meeting felt strongly that to defer frivolous appeals a fee should apply for lodging an appeal against a clearing permit (currently there is no fee).

RESOLUTION

Cr P Bantock moved and Cr R Madacsi seconded –

- (1) That the Zone requests the WA Local Government Association to advocate for the introduction of a fee for lodging of appeals against the grant, conditions or amendment of clearing permits.**
- (2) That the Zone recommends to the WA Local Government Association that the fee to lodge an appeal against the grant, conditions or amendment of a clearing permit be \$900.**

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 11:24 am.

RESUMPTION: The meeting resumed at 11:41 am. All those present at the time of adjournment were present on resumption.

5.5 Updated Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advocacy Position (Page 34)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council endorse the following updated Advocacy Position on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage:

3.1.3 *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 and South West Native Title Settlement*

WALGA acknowledges Noongar people as the traditional owners of the South West Region. Local Government is supportive of conserving and protecting the State's Aboriginal cultural heritage.

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

- 1. The legislation balances the need to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage with the requirement for Local Government to undertake activities in a timely and affordable manner;*
- 2. The implementation and ongoing operation of the legislative system for the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage is adequately resourced to ensure that all parties have the capacity, capability and resources to discharge their statutory obligations;*
- 3. Support is provided to Local Governments to ensure that they have the resources, capacity and capability to comply with a complex legislative framework; and*
- 4. Local Governments have the ability to deliver essential infrastructure works and emergency activities efficiently and effectively in order to maintain public safety.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- WALGA's existing Aboriginal Heritage Advocacy Position endorsed by State Council in July 2019 does not reflect the new *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act* (ACH Act) nor current Local Government priorities relating to the ACH Act and the new legislative system that it will introduce.
- The new ACH Act is expected to commence in 2023.
- Since 2018 WALGA has consulted extensively with the Local Government sector to inform numerous submissions to the State Government in relation to the preparation of the new ACH Act and the regulations and guidelines that will support it (Agenda item 6.5, WALGA Submission on Phase 2 of the ACH Act Co-design Process refers).

- The updated Advocacy Position has been drafted to reflect the key feedback received from the sector during these consultations, primarily with respect to the need to balance the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage with the requirement for Local Government to undertake activities in a timely and affordable manner, resourcing requirements for transition and implementation of the new ACH system, and support for the Local Government sector to comply with enhanced legislative requirements.
- The People and Place Policy Team endorsed the updated Advocacy Position at their meeting on 19 October 2022 and supported it being presented to State Council for decision at the December 2022 meeting.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

Cr T Lefroy commented that the Shire of Moora has experienced conflict between the local SWALSC Elders and those making up the Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services (LACHS) with each group expressing differing opinions on issues. This makes it difficult for the local governments and the community. She pointed out that the SWALSC and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act pathways are quite different and enquired as to who has final approval. **Ms V Barlow replied that she will take these concerns on board and drew attention to WALGA's webinar on Wednesday 9 December 2022 (10:00 am to 12 noon) on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act - Phase 3 Co-design.**

Cr M Angus asked if there was any funding available to cover the costs of studies etc under the new Act. Ms V Barlow replied that WALGA was advocating for funding and was in discussion with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.

5.6 Review of Coastal Planning Policy Position (Page 37)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council endorse replacing Advocacy Position 6.8 Coastal Planning with a new Coastal Planning Advocacy Position as follows:

6.8 Coastal Planning

WALGA calls for:

1. *Equitable legislative, regulatory and policy changes that preserve public coastal access for current and future generations.*
2. *The provision of sustainable and adequate long-term funding for Local Governments to manage the impacts of coastal erosion and inundation.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- It is proposed that the 2015 Advocacy Position, *6.8 Coastal Planning* be replaced with a new position that reflects Local Governments' key coastal planning advocacy priorities.
- The new position has been prepared in collaboration with officers of the Local Government Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Planning (CHRMAP) Forum and has been endorsed by the People and Place Policy Team.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That the above recommendations and comments be endorsed.

RESOLUTION

Cr P Bantock moved and Cr R Madacsi seconded –

That the above recommendation and comments be endorsed.

CARRIED

Matters for Noting/Information

6.1 WALGA Best Practice Governance Review Update (Page 39)

WALGA Recommendation

That the update on the Best Practice Governance Review be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Best Practice Governance Review Steering Committee has distributed a Consultation Paper to Member Local Governments seeking Council endorsed feedback by 23 December 2022.
- The Consultation Paper contains five governance models, including current arrangements.
- The Governance Review represents an opportunity to review WALGA's governance model to ensure the organisation continues to deliver value to members through development of clear policy positions, positive advocacy outcomes, relevant services, and agile decision making.
- A website and Background Paper contain further information, and the Secretariat is available to provide briefing presentations to assist in deliberations.

Cr M Angus enquired if there was any avenue to express different governance models to those outlined in the Consultation Paper. Ms M Prinsloo referred to the split between country and metropolitan local governments and suggested that it would be better to base Zones around local government bands.

Ms V Barlow replied that alternative models could be submitted by Councils.

Cr T Lefroy commented that there did not appear to be a lot of alignment between what was set out to achieve and the models put forward. She felt that there had been a lack of consultation around the development of the models.

Cr R Madacsi expressed the view that the timeframe for the Governance Review should be extended and was concerned with the proposed Board structure and the large number of external interests which were contrary to local government representation. She believed that the current organisation structure with some tweaks better than a new and unknown model.

Cr K Seymour drew attention to WALGA's webinar on the Governance Review being held Wednesday 30 November 2022 at 10:00 am.

6.2 2022-23 October Federal Budget (Page 41)

WALGA Recommendation

That the update on the 2022-23 October Federal Budget be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- On 25 October 2022, the Albanese Government handed down its first Budget, with a focus on delivering on election commitments, addressing the rising cost of living, encouraging investment and repairing the Government's fiscal position.
- The Budget contained a number of initiatives that will be welcomed by Local Governments, including an expansion of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, additional funding for Disaster Mitigation and a new Growing Regions Program and Precincts and Partnerships Program (replacing the Building Better Regions Program and the Community Development Grants Program).
- Of note for Local Governments was the adjustment to the timing for funding for transport and rail infrastructure projects, which will see funding for a number of projects pushed out beyond the forward estimates and could have implications for the delivery of projects important to some Local Governments and their communities.
- WALGA is seeking further information from the Commonwealth Government as to whether Local Government programs will be affected by this change and will keep Members informed of any developments.

Cr R Madacsi drew attention to the change in timing for funding of transport projects and asked how will this impact local government road programs as local government budgets are locked in with long term financial plans. **She requested that WALGA obtain information on the change and that it be send out to local governments as soon as possible. Ms V Barlow noted the request.**

6.3 Supporting the Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings – Release of 7 Star Homes Cost Investigation
(Page 43)

WALGA Recommendation

That the release of the 7 Star Homes Cost Investigation, completed as part of the Association's position to support the Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings, be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- In December 2021, State Council endorsed an advocacy position in support of the Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings (the Trajectory) to achieve net zero energy and carbon buildings in Australia.
- WALGA's March 2022 Discussion Paper Supporting the Trajectory to Low Energy Buildings identified the State Government's adoption of higher residential energy efficiency standards in the National Construction Code (NCC), as recommended by the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB), as a priority action to achieving net zero energy and carbon buildings in Australia.
- There is some concern that moving to the higher thermal performance standard will significantly increase construction costs. WALGA engaged an independent expert to investigate the additional cost of constructing new dwellings to meet the proposed new 7 Star energy efficiency standards in climate zones that experience the highest levels of new home construction in Western Australia.
- The investigation found the additional upfront cost of constructing a north-orientated, single-storey home to a 7 Star standard, from the current 6 Star baseline, in climate zones where most of Western Australia's new homes are constructed (i.e. Perth and the South-West Coast) is modest, ranging from \$1,750 for brick cavity to \$2,500 for timber frame construction. However, the additional cost would be higher for some dwelling types (double-storey, timber-framed construction) and in cooler climate zones (Albany, Manjimup).
- The 7 Star Homes Cost Investigation Report summarises these findings.

6.4 WALGA October 2022 Quarterly Economic Briefing (Page 45)

WALGA Recommendation

That the WALGA October 2022 Quarterly Economic Briefing be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- The WALGA October 2022 Economic Briefing shows the WA economy is continuing to face rising prices, a tight labour market and capacity constraints.
- These factors are impacting Local Governments ability to deliver infrastructure programs.
- In the year to June 2022 the Local Government Cost Index (LGCI) increased by 6.4%.
- Growth in the LGCI is expected to peak in coming months, before slowing to 3.3% and 2.4% respectively in the following two financial years.

Cr R Madacsi drew attention to the need for WALGA to inform local governments of any factors which will impact budget revenues etc.

6.5 WALGA Submission on Phase Two of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 Co-design Process (Page 47)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the submission to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage relating to Phase 2 of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 Co-design Process, endorsed via Flying Minute.

WALGA Executive Summary

- The *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* (ACH Act) is expected to commence on 1 July 2023.
- The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) is undertaking three phases of co-design during 2022 to develop the regulations, statutory guidelines and operational policies that will support the ACH Act.
- WALGA's May 2022 submission to Phase One of the Co-design process made 25 recommendations.
- WALGA's submission to Phase Two of the Co-design process, endorsed via Flying Minute on 18 August 2022, made 27 recommendations and included proposed activity tables for emergency activities and roadworks. The submission reinforced key recommendations from the Phase One submission, relating to the proposed activity categories, the desire for ongoing sector consultation, and

the requirement to balance the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage with the requirement for Local Governments to undertake necessary infrastructure and maintenance works.

- Phase Three of the Co-design process will commence in November 2022 with workshops being held in 34 locations across Western Australia. WALGA will make another submission informed by feedback obtained directly from the sector via officer review and from WALGA's Aboriginal Heritage Reference Group.
- WALGA is a member of a Working Group that has been established to bring together five industry groups and five Aboriginal corporations to further refine and agree the activity categories. Meetings of the Working Group were held on 20 and 31 October 2022.

Cr R Madacsi asked if there was any avenue for the voices of local aboriginal populations which have a connection to the land being heard as discussions appear to be at a higher level and the local voices need to be captured. Ms V Barlow suggested that this concern be raised during the webinar on 9 December.

6.6 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (Page 49)

WALGA Recommendation

That the resolutions of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council from its 29 June, 24 August and 26 October 2022 meetings be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

This item summaries the outcomes of the MWAC meetings held on 29 June, 24 August and 26 October 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

That the above matters for noting/information be noted.

RESOLUTION

**Cr P Bantock moved and Cr D Coad seconded –
That the above matters for noting/information be noted.**

CARRIED

Organisational Reports

7.1 Policy Team Reports

- 7.1.1 Environment and Waste Policy Team Report (Page 51)
- 7.1.2 Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team Report (Page 52)
- 7.1.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report (Page 55)
- 7.1.4 People and Place Policy Team Report (Page 56)

7.2 Key Activity Reports

- 7.2.1 Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio (Page 57)
- 7.2.2 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio (Page 60)
- 7.2.3 Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio (Page 62)
- 7.2.4 Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio (Page 65)

RECOMMENDATION

That the above organisational reports be noted.

RESOLUTION

**Cr R Madacsi moved and Cr M Angus seconded –
That the above organisational reports be noted.**

CARRIED

6.2 WALGA President's Report

Presentation of the WALGA President's Report (attached to Agenda).

RECOMMENDATION

That the WALGA President's Report be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr R Madacsi moved and Cr D Coad seconded –
That the WALGA President's Report be received.**

CARRIED

6.3 State Councillor's Report

Presentation of report by Cr Ken Seymour.

RECOMMENDATION

That the State Councillor's Report be received.

Cr Seymour presented his report -

It is with sadness that we hear of a fatality and others injured at a farm fire during the week. The risk of fire started by farm machinery and weather events is accentuated this year due to the high fuel loads after a good growing season.

The recent traffic crashes on regional roads in the zone is also of major concern. The roads in regional WA have never seemed busier. A large harvest, mineral exploration, busy tourist seasons and general industry result in our roads coming under increasing pressure. Local governments need to continually push the safety message throughout WA.

Last week I attended a conference in Melbourne held by BCCM, Business Council of Cooperatives and Mutuals. It is always surprising how many Cooperatives and Mutual organisations there are in Australia, whether they be financial institutions, agricultural Coops, medical groups and many others. There are currently a number of housing Coops working throughout Australia building new housing projects due to a housing shortage across the country. This shortage often limits regional businesses being able to attract quality staff to the regions.

The conference made me search the number of homes for sale in the Wheatbelt. It seems some country towns have a number of housing properties for sale that may be in need of general repairs or maintenance to attract staff that may purchase or rent these properties. Is there scope for a government or industry backed Cooperative to purchase this type of property which then may attract families to move to our regional towns?

The conference heard from existing housing Coops working on a two percent deposit rate for members purchasing homes and buyers not needing to comply with Lenders Mortgage insurance. This scheme may fit in well throughout the Wheatbelt as it utilises existing dwellings that may benefit all concerned due to new ownership of these properties.

A relevant topic for general business towards the end of today's meeting.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy festive season as the year seems to be flying past.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr D Coad seconded –
That the State Councillor's Report be received.**

CARRIED

6.4 Zone Status Report

Report by WA Local Government Association on status of Zone resolutions for action by the Association – November 2022 (attached to Agenda).

RECOMMENDATION

That the November 2022 Status Report be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr R Madacsi Antonio moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –
That the November 2022 Status Report be received.**

CARRIED

7 ZONE REPORTS

7.1 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group

(a) Minutes.

No meetings of the Group have been held since the last Zone meeting. The meeting scheduled for 14 October 2022 was deferred due to a number of members being unable to attend.

(b) Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Group is scheduled for Friday 12 February 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group be received.

There was no report.

7.2 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee

Report by Zone Delegate Cr C Antonio on activities of the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Report on the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management be received.

There was no report.

8 AGENCY REPORTS

8.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

(a) Presentation of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries report.

(b) Consideration of any topics or presentations the Zone would like the Department to give to the next Zone meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries report be received.

Ms T Edgar commented –

- A new

Cr T Lefroy left the meeting at 12.24 pm.

RESOLUTION

Cr R Madacsi moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –

That the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries report be received.

CARRIED

8.2 RDA Wheatbelt

Presentation of the RDA Wheatbelt report (attached to Agenda).

RECOMMENDATION

That the RDA Wheatbelt report be received.

Ms T Edgar left the meeting at 12:37 am

Ms E Woods presented the RDAW report and commented on –

RESOLUTION

Cr R Madacsi moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –

That the RDA Wheatbelt report be received.

CARRIED

8.3 Transport Portfolio (Main Roads, Department of Transport, Public Transport Authority)

Presentation of the Transport Portfolio report (circulated following the meeting).

RECOMMENDATION

That the Transport Portfolio report be received.

Mr M Siddiqui presented the Main Roads WA report and commented on -

RESOLUTION

Cr D Coad moved and Cr M Angus seconded –

That the Transport Portfolio report be received.

CARRIED

8.4 RoadWise (Wheatbelt North)

Presentation of the RoadWise (Wheatbelt North) Road Safety report (attached to Agenda).

RECOMMENDATION

That the RoadWise (Wheatbelt North) report be received.

Mr C Simpson presented the RoadWise (Wheatbelt North) report and commented on –

RESOLUTION

**Cr P Bantock moved and Cr D Coad seconded –
That the RoadWise (Wheatbelt North) report be received.**

CARRIED

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Presentation of update from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

The meeting noted that Mr Carter had been unable to attend today's meeting due to illness. **The meeting requested that Mr Carter be invited to the April 2023 meeting.**

9 FINANCE

9.1 Financial Reports

Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Report for the period ending 31 October 2022 are attached to the agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

That the financial reports for the period ending 31 October 2022, as attached, be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr M Angus moved and Cr D Coad seconded –
That the financial reports for the period ending 31 October 2022, as attached, be received.**

CARRIED

9.2 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts are submitted for payment -

<u>Payee</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Amount</u>
R W & S Dew	Secretarial Services to Zone – September 2022 Quarter	3,910.75
	TOTAL (no GST)	<u>\$3,910.75</u>

RECOMMENDATION

That the accounts as listed totalling \$3,910.75 be approved for payment.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr R Madacsi seconded –
That the accounts as listed totalling \$3,910.75 be approved for payment.**

CARRIED

10 ZONE BUSINESS

10.1 Western Power – Attendance at Zone Meeting

BACKGROUND

Western Power is exploring opportunities to engage with local governments to keep them informed and involved in key network decisions that affect their communities.

COMMENT

Western Power has requested an opportunity to attend a Zone meeting, possibly in the first quarter of 2023, to provide information on what Western Power is doing in the region to manage power reliability, bushfire risk, transition to modular grid and regional capacity constraints. Western Power has also asked what Zone members would like to discuss with Western Power.

In considering an invitation to Western Power it should be noted that an invitation (not yet confirmed) has been made for CBH to attend the Zone's February 2023 meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

- (1) That Western Power be invited to attend the _____ (February or April) 2023 meeting of the Zone; and
- (2) That Zone members be requested to nominate topics for discussion with Western Power.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Coad moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –

- (1) That Western Power be invited to attend the February 2023 meeting of the Zone;
- (2) That Zone members be requested to nominate topics for discussion with Western Power; and
- (3) That the invitation to CBH Group to attend the Zone's February 2023 (made at the 26 August 2022 meeting) be changed to the April 2023 meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting put forward the following topics for discussion with Western Power –

- Pole top fires.
- Power output in regional areas.

Wheatbelt Conference

The November 2021 meeting noted that the proposal for a future Wheatbelt Conference had not progressed and requested that this item remain on the agenda until further notice. It was noted that any consideration of a future Wheatbelt Conference will need to take into account the prevailing COVID-19 situation and any restrictions that may be in place for gatherings.

RECOMMENDATION

For Noting

NOTED

11 URGENT BUSINESS (as permitted by the Presiding Member)

No business was brought forward.

12 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

There were no Members of Parliament present.

13 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Future meetings of the Zone are scheduled for –

17 February 2023	Shire of York
21 April 2023	Shire of Chittering
23 June 2023	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
25 August 2023	Shire of Moora

RECOMMENDATION

That the next ordinary meeting of the Zone be held Friday 17 February 2023 and be hosted by the Shire of York.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr D Coad seconded –

That the next ordinary meeting of the Zone be held Friday 17 February 2023 and be hosted by the Shire of York.

CARRIED

14 GUEST SPEAKERS

14.1 National Emergency Management Agency

Ms Annette Balmer, Recovery Support Officer, Wheatbelt & Mid Goldfields Region, National Emergency Management Agency – Presentation on the Agency's role and connection with local government.

14.2 Wheatbelt Health Services

Guest speakers from WACHS Wheatbelt and WA Primary Health Alliance to discuss the proposed inter-agency Wheatbelt Health and Well-Being Plan, planning for large events and request that event organisers to be encouraged to register their event with the Department of Health's WA Event Calendar and the provision of health services in the region and the increasing role that local governments are having to play.

The meeting noted that the presenters from WACHS Wheatbelt and WA Primary Health Alliance had, at short notice, advised that due to unavoidable circumstances they would be unable to attend today's meeting.

The meeting requested that the presentation on Wheatbelt Health Services be rescheduled for the Zone's February 2023 meeting.

15 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair thanked attendees their participation, the Shire of Dandaragan for hosting the meeting and declared the meeting closed at 1:40 pm.

CERTIFICATION

These Minutes were confirmed by the meeting held on

Signed:
(Chairman of meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed)