



**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SOUTH WEST ZONE**

MINUTES

DATE Friday 22 March 2019

COMMENCING 9.00 am

VENUE Shire of Collie – 87 Throssell St Collie

PROGRAM	9.00 am	Opening
	9.05 am	Business as per agenda
	10.15 am	Morning Tea
	10.45 am	Meeting resumes
	11.00 am	Presentations
	12.30 pm	Lunch

AGENDA FORMAT

The agenda is sent in two parts. The first, being the Zone Agenda, the second the State Council Agenda in PDF format. The State Council Agenda was emailed separately to members

E R Fisher
Executive Officer

Distribution Lists (by Email to the following addressee)

M Archer G Henley Tony Nottle Kate Dudley	D Blurton S Stanley	M Osborne T. Smith	P Omodei A Campbell	Capel (Info) Ian McCabe M Scott
Gaylene Godfrey A Schonfeldt M Bennett	D Taylor T Dean	T Clynch T Pratico	D Putland P Townshend M Smith	A Lamb G Aird
Debbie Brown A Riordan T Jackson	B Piesse B Rose	C O'Brian (WALGA)	Vern McKay (Audit)	

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1. Opening and Announcements

The President, Cr. T. Dean will opened the meeting at 9 am and welcomed all present. Mr. Andre Schonfeldt was welcomed as the newly appointed CEO for the Shire of Dardanup, as was Mr. S Carstairs A/CEO Shire of Boyup Brook and Cr. C Winfield from the Shire of Manjimup.

2. Attendance & Apologies

The following attendance and apologies are recorded:

Local Government	Delegate		CEO	
Shire of Augusta – Margaret River	Cr. P Townsend Cr. J Meldrum	Apology Present	Mr. D Putland	Present
Shire of Boyup Brook	Cr. G Aird	Present	Mr. S Carstairs	Present
Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes	Cr. T Pratico	Present	Mr. T Clynch	Present
City of Bunbury	Cr. T Smith	Present	Mr. G Harris	Present
City of Busselton	Mayor G Henley	Present	Ms. S Pierson	Present
Shire of Capel	Cr. M Scott	Present	Mr. I McCabe	Present
Shire of Collie	Cr. S Stanley	Present	Mr. D Blurton	Present
Shire of Dardanup	Cr. M Bennett	Present	Mr. A. Schonfeldt	Present
Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup	Cr. B Piesse	Present	Mr. B Rose	Present
Shire of Harvey	Cr. T Jackson	Present	Mrs. A Riordan	Present
Shire of Manjimup	Cr. P Omodei	Present	Mr. A Campbell	Present
Shire of Nannup	Cr. T Dean	Present	Mr. D Taylor	Present
Executive Officer			Mr. E Fisher	Present

3. Visitors:

3.1 WALGA

Mr. John Filippone, Executive Manager Business Solutions

Ms. Kirstie Davis, Policy Manager Community

Cr. C Winfield, D/President Shire of Manjimup

3.2 Other Guests

Mr. Tim Thompson, Manager Biosecurity Group

Ms. Victoria Aitken, A/Director Invasive Species – Sustainability and Biosecurity

Mr. Steve Ewing from the South West Catchments Council Bunbury Office

3.3 DLGS & CI.

Mrs. Darrelle Merritt

4. Presentations

4.1 Host Council Presentation

Host shires are invited to provide a 15-20 minute presentation on current events affecting their local government area or to arrange an inspection of new or significant facilities of interest to members.

4.2 Regional Biosecurity Groups – Access to Rating Information (9.50am)

Mr. Tim Thompson, Manager Biosecurity Group addressed the Zone on this topic. A PPT is available on request to the EO.

Mr. Steve Ewing from the South West Catchments Council Bunbury Office address the meeting and provide an update on the Regional Land Partnerships and priorities as funded under the National Landcare Program Phase Two, particularly the overall funding reductions to programs.

5. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Corrections

Nil

Moved	Mayor G Henley	Seconded	Cr M Scott	Carried
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MOTION:

The minutes of the meeting held at the Shire of Capel on Friday 23 November 2018 are confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

6. Business Arising

Return of signed MOUs to EO on mutual support during emergencies. A number of MOUs have been returned.

7. Reports

7.1 BIOSECURITY GROUP DEVELOPMENT

Moved	Cr S Stanley	Seconded	Cr T Pratico	C arried
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This motion was deferred, to enable the Zone to hear the presentation by Mr. T Thompson prior to voting on the matter.

MOTION

THAT the information be noted

In Brief

- The Zone has previously raised concerns about the introduction of a Declared Pest Rate (DPR)
- A scheduled meeting with the Minister for Agriculture last year failed to occur due to weather conditions and no further meeting was offered
- WALGA's policy position, recommendations to WA Government on Post Border Security and a WALGA letter to the CEO Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development have been previously distributed
- A presentation by Mr. Tim Thomson is scheduled for this meeting. Mr Thomson advises it would be useful for the Shires and DPIRD to have an opportunity to discuss the RBG model and specially the need to access rating data to enable consultation on rates.

Background

The Zone previously resolved as follows; that the SWZ requests WALGA enter into negotiations with the relevant Commonwealth departments to address:

- The negative impacts of the proposed conditions that will attach to payments of funds to voluntary environmental management groups particularly, retrospectivity of post project reimbursement and insufficiency of project administrative costs, and
- The need to ensure that any biosecurity projects avoid duplication, work collaboratively and are consistent with the provisions of the Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act 2007.

Detail

At the last meeting it was resolved that the Zone agrees to a meeting with Mr. Tim Thompson, Manager Biosecurity Group Development at the February meeting, and the Councils prepare questions on matters of concern to be submitted to Mr. Thomson to enable him to prepare responses prior to the meeting. WALGA have since advised that Mr. Steve Ewings, who is the CEO of the South West Catchment Council is more than keen to address the zone on the changes to funding, and what that will mean for the supporting local community groups. This has been arranged.

In 2016 the Zone passed the following motion in regard to RBG groups and DAFWA funding.

That:

1. The South West Zone WALGA call on the State Government to immediately reinstate adequate funding to DAFWA for biosecurity officers to enact full compliance regarding the control of declared weeds and feral animals across the South West: and
2. WALGA be requested to lobby the State Government and State Labor Party on this matter.

The WALGA Policy Position is shown below:

1. Local Government believes that State Government has responsibility for the following parts of a biosecurity system:
 - Pre-border and border biosecurity measures and contingency funds to deal with new pest outbreaks;
 - Assistance to the private sector for newly established, industry-specific pests
 - Assistance to land managers for newly established pests (where the incursion has occurred despite the land owner's best biosecurity management effort);
 - Establishment of a biosecurity network and regional cooperative arrangements;
 - Enforcement of regulations;
 - Compliance with regulations on State Government managed land;
 - Specific research projects and specialised diagnostic services; and
 - Enhancement of barrier fences.
2. Local Government is not supportive of Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBGs).
3. Local Government calls on the State Government to either reinstate the Agriculture Protection Board or develop a model similar to the NSW Local Land Services Act (2013) approach, and in consideration of either model that:

- there are State Government approved strategic and operational plans which can be understood by landowners and other stakeholders, including Local Governments;
 - there is direct contact with Local Governments, State Government agencies and departments, and major industry groups;
 - either is resourced by State Government to undertake the required activities;
 - either be funded under the current funding arrangements as outlined in the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act (2007); and
 - it assists in the delivery of national, state and local priority species management.
4. That as matter of priority, the Government undertakes a review of the operation and effectiveness of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act (2007) and its regulations.

Comment

This matter is ongoing and a number of Councils have refused to provide rating information. The Shire of Nannup has advised the Minister hat a survey of ratepayers in their district revealed that 74% of those surveyed (1,010) did not support the imposition of a DPR. The response from the Minister advised that the DPR would not be imposed in the 2018/19 year pending further work to be done between the Department and the Regional Biosecurity Group.

7.2 APPOINTMENT OF SW LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION AT THE SOUTH WEST DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (DEMC)

Moved	Cr. M Scott	Seconded	Cr M Scott	Carried
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MOTION

THAT

- ***The following representatives be appointed to the DEMC in accordance with previous Zone practice.***
- ***DEMC be advised that this will be reviewed following the local government elections in October***
- ***The minutes be distributed to all CEOs in the Zone***
- ***The item be a standing item on the Zone agenda***

Group A:

Councillor M Scott

CEO *I McCabe*

Group B:

Councillor *P Townsend*

CEO *M Archer*

Group C:

Councillor *T Pratico*

CEO *T Clynch*

In Brief

- The District Emergency management Committee (DEMC) is part of the State Emergency Management arrangements organizationally situated between the Local Emergency Management Committee and the State Emergency Management Committee
- The responsibilities of the committee are detailed in the report
- Membership is nominated by the SWZ in there areas A, B & C. This is now due for review
- Attendance at some meetings has been problematical and venue selection may improve this factor

Background

The SWZ – WALGA nominates members as representatives on the District Emergency Management Committee. The following advice has been received from Mr. Vik Cheema, District Emergency Management Advisor – South West, Department of Fire and Emergency Service, South Western Highway, Bunbury WA 6230. Three groups, A, B & C each have an elected member and a CEO as representatives.

Details

Western Australia has eleven emergency management districts, each with its own District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC). The key function of the DEMC is to assist in the establishment and maintenance of effective emergency arrangements in their districts.

DEMCs focus on risk within their district and ensure information received from the State flows down to the Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMCs). They support the LEMCs with advice on emergency management arrangements, as well as participating in exercises and testing of arrangements.

As some of the LG CEOs have now retired, the SW local government representation at the South West District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) requires a review.

The SW WALGA Zone has been requested to review the attached list and nominate new

members?

There have been problems in achieving representation at meetings over the last year.

It has been suggested that to improve participation and attendance, some of the DEMC meeting could be held at local government office.

South West Local Government Representation				
GROUP A BUNBURY CAPEL COLLIE HARVEY DARDANUP	CHESTER Mark CEO Shire of Dardanup	Work: 9724 0000 Mobile: 0417954339 Email: mark.chester@dardanup.wa.gov.au		
	SCOTT Cr Murray Shire of Capel	Work: 0407 270 023 Mobile: murrame123@gmail.com Email: aevans@capel.wa.gov.au		
GROUP B AUGUSTA MARGARET RIVER BUSSELTON NANNUP	EVERSHED Gary CEO Shire of Augusta Margaret River	Work: 97805255 Mobile: TBC Email: gevershed@amrshire.wa.gov.au		
	EARL Cr Ian Shire of Augusta Margaret River	Work: 97805255 Mobile: TBC Email: iearl@amrshire.wa.gov.au		
GROUP C BOYUP BROOK BRIDGETOWN GREENBUSHES DONNYBROOK BALINGUP MANJIMUP	CLYNCH Tim CEO Shire of Bridgetown Greenbuses	Work: 9761 1555 Mobile: TBC Email: tclynch@bridgetown.wa.gov.au		
	PRATICO Tony CR Bridgetown Greenbushes	Work: 9764 4010 (Home) 9761 1616 (Work) Mobile: 0409 764 401 Email: tonypratico@bigpond.com gnorris@bridgetown.wa.gov.au (Shire admin)		

Comment

The role of the DEMC as a part of the State Emergency Management Arrangements is an important role. Given the ongoing emergencies being experienced in the Zone particularly bushfires it is an essential part of emergency preparedness.

7.3 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN COMMUNITIES

Moved	Cr J Meldrum	Seconded	Cr T Jackson	Carried
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MOTION

That

The SWZ request WALGA to begin to develop an advocacy position on family and domestic violence.

A sector working group is formed to guide the consultation process and a state wide forum be held to raise awareness of the issue within the sector

A formal request be made that Our Watch and other key stakeholders are invited to present to the sector.

In Brief

- WA Police statistics indicate that there were 10,879 family violence offences in the period July – Dec 2018 a rise of 7.0% over the 5-year average
- The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (Australian Government) reports that family, domestic and sexual violence is a major health and welfare issue. It occurs across all ages, socioeconomic and demographic groups but mainly affects women and children. Indigenous women, young women and pregnant women are particularly at risk.
- 72,000 women, 34,000 children and 9,000 men sought homelessness services in 2016–17 due to family/domestic violence

Background

In the WALGA December State Council an item was submitted for noting that provides impetus for moving forward around the issue of domestic violence in our communities.

Details

Cr P Townsend from the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River has submitted the following information.

Cr. Brooke O'Donnell at Kalamunda is also active in this space and a member of WALGA State Council.

In October last year Cr. O'Donnell and Ms. Davis met to discuss the potential to develop an advocacy position on domestic violence and I believe there would be support to submit the following recommendation.

Resulting from this the following information has been provided by WALGA.

Preventing violence is everyone's responsibility. The statistics in WA and across Australia are harrowing and preventable. With 1 in 6 women and 1 in 16 men, experiencing physical or sexual violence by a current or previous partners since the age of 15. Between 2012-12 and 2013-14 99 women and 27 men were killed by a current or previous partner.

Local Governments have a critical role to play in driving the change needed to prevent family and domestic violence within their communities. As the closest tier of government to the people, Local Governments should be taking action at a local level to address violence against women and to embed gender equality and respect in their communities.

A recent webinar presented by Injury Matters on 6 February was attended by 37 members from Local Government. Which WALGA gave a key presentation highlighting some of the short to longer term initiatives that can be undertaken in this space to prevent and reduce the incidence of family and domestic violence in communities.

Within the current confines of the *Local Government Act 1995* (under review) and the *Public Health Act 2016* [Div 2 s16] local governments have the ability to develop and implement policies and programs to achieve these objectives.

There has been a great deal of activity at State and National level on this topic. Including but not limited to a Royal Commission inquiry into family violence, reviews of the state based *Residential Tenancies (Family Violence) Bill 2018* (passed in October 2018) and research into the efficiency and effectiveness of *Residential Tenancy Act 1987* and the *Residential Parks (long stay tenants) Act 2007*.

Further to this WA State Government is developing a Family and Domestic Violence 10 Year Strategy and Aboriginal Family Safety Plan, has consulted community sector and provided a response to Commonwealth Government on Elder Abuse and is currently invested in developing the Child Safety message and State based implementation plan as part of the National Redress into Child Sexual Abuse in Institutions.

In June this year it is anticipated that Commonwealth Government will launch a two year pilot that WALGA has been working closely with the City of Mandurah to develop a Local Government Toolkit for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence in communities. This together with the pending Gender Equity Bill that is supposed to be passed through Parliament of Victoria in 2019 provides Western Australian Local Governments with a strong foundation in which to advocate and act in preventing further incidences of violence in its communities.

Ms. Kirstie Davis , Policy Manager Community, WALGA will be attending the South West Zone Meeting in Collie in February and will be available to talk to this issue at the Zone meeting.

7.4 Heritage Act 2018

Moved	Cr. G Henley	Seconded	Cr M Bennett	Carried
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MOTION

THAT the SWZ request the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage to make a presentation to the next meeting on the subject of Heritage Act 2018

In Brief

- On 12 September 2018, Parliament passed the Heritage Bill 2017, effectively giving Western Australia a new Heritage Act.
- The new Act will replace the outdated *Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990* and bring Western Australia in line with other States to ensure better protections for important heritage places, in particular, those left to 'demolition by neglect'.
- The new Act is the result of intensive community consultation following a State Government commitment to overhaul the sometimes complex, inflexible and unclear heritage assessment and consultation processes.
- Key changes include a streamlined process for entering a place in the State Register; certainty for owners wishing to develop their heritage places; and increased transparency by publishing the Heritage Council's advice to the Minister for Heritage on the inclusion of a place in the State Register.
- Greater protection for State registered places will also occur through a mix of incentives such as grants and access to technical assistance.
- The new Act also balances identifying and recording local heritage places without imposing controls on owner's properties.

Background

WALGA has been supporting the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage in the final stages of consultation that will support the implementation of the Heritage Act 2018. This process will take submissions on an initial set of regulations to accompany the Act; develop guidelines for local heritage surveys; and seek expressions of interest for a new Heritage Council, which will be appointed once the new Act is proclaimed. Local government input to the consultation process is strongly encouraged, with submissions taken until mid-April. Further information can be found at www.stateheritage.wa.gov.au.

Details

Following the consultation process, the Department has offered to give a short presentation to each Zone noting highlights of the new Act of relevance to local government, and identifying further opportunities for training and information.

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage now seek the opportunity to present on this topic to the Zone at the April meeting.

Comment

Given the range of changes to the new Act it would be advantageous for members to have the opportunity to be briefed by the department and also explore the potential implications for individual local governments.

7.5 National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sex Abuse

Moved	Cr S Stanley	Seconded	Cr T Pratica	Carried
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MOTION

THAT the SWZ request DLGSC to make a presentation on the implications for local governments arising from the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse and the National Redress Scheme.

In Brief

- On 13 June 2018 the Australian Government tabled its response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
- In response to this Royal Commission recommendation, the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (the Scheme) has been established. The State Government commenced participation in the Scheme from 1 January 2019.
- On 10 January 2019 the DLGSCI has released an Information and Discussion Paper entitled National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse

Background

The following extract from the DLGSC is submitted as an introduction to this topic.

Gordon MacMile, Director Strategic Coordination and Delivery, Planning and Service Delivery has requested the opportunity to make a presentation to the Zone. He has been advised that the meeting in April may be suitable, subject to confirmation.

The State Government, specifically through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC), has previously consulted with WA Local Government and other key stakeholders on the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (the Royal Commission) findings and recommendations.

Details

A key recommendation made by the Royal Commission was for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse to have access to redress.

In response to this Royal Commission recommendation, the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (the Scheme) has been established. The State Government commenced participation in the Scheme from 1 January 2019.

DLGSC and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet propose to undertake an engagement process with WA Local Governments to raise awareness regarding redress for institutional abuse survivors and to consider how survivors of abuse within the community may be acknowledged, treated and supported.

Comment

A full copy of the report has been circulated separately.

7.6 State Bushfire Centre of Excellence

MOTION

Moved	Cr. B Piesse	Seconded	Cr. J Meldrum	Carried
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THAT:

While supporting the State Government's initiative following the Ferguson Inquiry to have a focused Rural Fire Division within the Department of Fire and Emergency Services embracing a State Bushfire Centre of Excellence, WALGA South West Zone expresses its extreme disappointment that the State Bushfire Centre of Excellence was not located within the WALGA South West Zone footprint, to utilise the wealth of existing hands-on fire fighting and emergency services infrastructure and human resource capability throughout the region. The WALGA South West Zone believes the Government has missed a real opportunity to demonstrate a commitment to the regionalisation of an appropriate Government facility bringing significant investment (\$18m) and ongoing value added growth and economic benefits (population, workforce and business and industry multipliers) to the region."

In Brief

- A special Inquiry into the January 2016 Waroona Fire entitled "Reframing Rural Fire Management" contained a series of recommendations including the proposal to create a Bushfire Centre of Excellence.
- On 5th March 2019 The Premier and the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services announced that the Shire of Murray had been chosen as the location for the new Centre. The location is at Lakes Rd Nambeelup.

Background

In April 2018 the following was reported to the Zone.

In response to recommendations from the January 2016 Waroona Bushfire Special Inquiry, a new Rural Fire Division has been announced to increase the focus on bushfire management and volunteer relations.

The Rural Fire Division, based within DFES, will include the Office of Bushfire Risk Management, the Bushfire Risk Management Program and a newly created Bushfire Centre of Excellence. An overview introducing the Executive Director of the Rural Fire Division, Mr Murray Cater, can be found on the following website;

<https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/newsandmedia/rfd/Documents/dfes-rfd-statements.pdf>

Bushfire Brigades remain with Local Governments, with current operational and management structures remaining the same.

The Rural Fire Division comes with significant investment including:

- \$15 million towards the Bushfire Risk Management Program to support local governments identify and manage bushfire risk.
- \$34.6 million has been committed to bushfire mitigation, which improve the ability for identified risk management strategies to be implemented in communities.
- \$18 million for a Bushfire Centre of Excellence to enhance bushfire management practices across the State and provide a specialised facility for volunteers bushfire training.

Funding of these commitments will be achieved through an increase in the Emergency Services Levy (ESL), which will take effect July 1, 2018.

The Premier announced an increase of \$28 to the metropolitan ESL and increases of between \$8 and \$17 per annum across the four regional ESL categories will also be included in the 2018-19 State Budget.

In recognition of the Economic Regulation Authority review into the ESL, an ESL Referral and Grants Advisory Committee will be established to provide independent scrutiny and increase transparency around the ESL. This Committee will be made up of non-DFES appointees to provide independent advice to the Emergency Services Minister about how money is spent to ensure maximum value for all Western Australians.

The Association is seeking further information on the ESL components of the announcement, given the sector's responsibility for the collection of the ESL and being a recipient of Local Government Capital and Operating Grants to support Bushfire Volunteers.

Recently DFES provided the following details in a media release.

The establishment of a dedicated Bushfire Centre of Excellence for Western Australia is underway. Announced by the State Government in April 2018, this transformational facility will be a centre focused on best practice in bushfire management.

The Bushfire Centre of Excellence, to be located just north of Pinjarra, will work closely with the rural and regional bushfire management sector including state agencies, local governments, non-government organisations, industry, Aboriginal groups, volunteers and the community.

It will provide knowledge, technical expertise, science and research, plus high-level training for bush firefighters and other emergency services personnel across the State.

As a shared connection point, the Bushfire Centre of Excellence will draw on the considerable local experience of volunteers and the broader community to share skills and develop new initiatives. This way, all parties can benefit from the transfer of valuable knowledge in bushfire management.

The Ferguson Report included the following recommendation.

Recommendation 15: The State Government to create a

Rural Fire Service to enhance the capability for rural fire management and bushfire risk management at a State, regional and local level. The proposed Rural Fire Service will:

- be established as a separate entity from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services or, alternatively, be established as a sub-department of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services;
- have an independent budget;
- be able to employ staff
- have a leadership structure which to the greatest degree possible, is regionally based and runs the entity;
- be led by a Chief Officer who reports to the responsible Minister on policy and administrative matters; and to the Commissioner for Fire and Emergency Services during operational and emergency response;
- have responsibilities and powers relating to bushfire prevention, preparedness and response; and
- operate collaboratively with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, the Department of Parks and Wildlife, Local Government and volunteer Bush Fire Brigades.

In creating the Rural Fire Service, the State Government to consider whether back office and corporate support services could be effectively provided by an existing Department, such as the Department of Fire and Emergency Services or the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

The State Government to review the creation of the Rural Fire Service two years after its establishment, to assess whether its structure and operations are achieving the intended outcome.

7.7 Funding Commitment Towards Strategic Transport Network Infrastructure In South West Western Australia

Moved	Cr B Piesse	Seconded	Cr. P Omodei	Carried
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MOTION

1. ***That the South West Zone of WALGA adopts an advocacy position of seeking a commitment to funding from:***

- a. ***Western Australian State Government; and/or***
- b. ***Australian Federal Government; and/or***
- c. ***Private industry***

to better manage the ever increasing numbers of heavy vehicle haulage and light vehicle users within the south-west (particularly including South Western Highway), including the possibility of re-instating and re-opening the disused South West Railway, as well as the future expansion and improvements of our road networks for the south-west region as part of the investment of our future infrastructure and road networks.

2. ***That the South West Zone of WALGA requests the WALGA State Council to consider adopting the advocacy position outlined in Recommendation 1, above.***

In Brief

- The Shire of Donnybrook Balingup is seeking the South West Zone of WALGA to adopt an advocacy position for a commitment from Federal Government, State Government and relevant private industries to ensure improved investment into the south west of WA's strategic transport infrastructure, in particular the railways and highways.

Background

At a Special Meeting on 25 February 2019, the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup Council considered an Elected Member motion in relation to seeking a funding commitment from State and Federal Government, and the private sector, towards improved investment in strategic transport infrastructure. Part of the resolution from this Special Meeting included seeking support for this advocacy position from the South West Zone of WALGA, as well as the State Council of WALGA (including via the WALGA AGM).

Comment

WALGA provides an opportunity for the South West Local Government zones, namely, Augusta-Margaret River, Boyup Brook, Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Bunbury, Busselton, Capel, Collie, Dardanup, Donnybrook Balingup, Harvey, Manjimup and Nannup, to jointly voice their concerns and representation as a group.

The Shire of Donnybrook Balingup Council encourage WALGA, via the SW Zone, to be the voice and lobby for a commitment from the Federal Government and the State Government (and private sector) to ensure future investment into WA's infrastructure, in particular the railways and highways servicing the south-west of Western Australia.

If any other funding stakeholders are identified and could be engaged towards this funding, we support the discussions with such stakeholders.

Other Implications include the following studies and plans.

- Arc Infrastructure /SWDC /Talison Rail Reinstatement Prefeasibility Study
- Warren Blackwood Sub Regional Growth Plan (draft)
- Bunbury Geographe Sub Regional Growth Plan (under revision)
- Capes Sub Regional Growth Plan (to be developed)

Attachment

Copy of Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup Minutes circulated with this agenda as a separate document.

7.8 Report on Zone Forum

A copy of the report Local Government Act Forum held in Busselton on 2 November 2018 was circulated separately WALGA will be seeking decision on sector positions feedback following feedback from Local Government submissions.

8. WALGA State President's Report

MOTION

Moved	Cr. P Omodei	Seconded	Mayor G Henley	Carried
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THAT:

The report be received.

Federal Election

The Australian Local Government Association has pre-empted the pending federal election with the release of its policy and funding platform "All Politics is Local". The document contains a range of bids for the attention of the future Commonwealth government, including;

- Repairing the federal funding mechanism for Local Government
- Realising the productive potential of Australia's freight routes
- Boosting safety on local roads
- Promoting equitable access to community services
- Protecting communities from the impacts of natural disasters
- Supporting communities with their climate change response
- Promoting healthier communities
- Fostering Indigenous well-being and prosperity
- Supporting communities on their digital transformation journeys
- Strengthening Australia's circular economy
- Addressing affordable housing and homelessness issues

There are 537 councils in Australia serving almost every community across the Nation. Councillors elected from within their local community are directly accountable for the planning, coordination, facilitation and delivery of council services and infrastructure and are in a unique position to help the Commonwealth deliver programs and projects in every federal electorate. This opportunity for partnership is the basis on which ALGA is seeking to have the Commonwealth invest in the sector.

While the formal recognition of local government in the Constitution remains essential to the long-term relationship between the Commonwealth and local government, past federal governments have recognised the critical value of a partnership with local government to achieve fair and equitable community outcomes. Councils can ensure all Australians benefit from the nation's prosperity by being the conduit through which Commonwealth resources can be converted into local action.

Short Stay Accommodation – Representation at Public Hearing

WALGA represented the sector's views at the recent Economics and Industry Standing Committee public hearing inquiry into Short Stay Accommodation, specifically the range of existing approaches and regulatory mechanisms used by the sector.

Additional to the information contained in the Association's interim submission, the inquiry sought additional comments regarding specific impacts of this form of accommodation on the local economy and Local Government. This additional information will be submitted in May 2019, with the inquiry finalising its report before June 2019.

Bushfire Centre of Excellence – Location Announced

The Shire of Murray was recently announced as the Local Government partner to build the State Bushfire Centre of Excellence. The location was chosen for its close proximity to major transport links and accommodation options and also provides access to rural space ideal for training opportunities and learning experiences.

A first of its kind, the Bushfire Centre of Excellence for Western Australia was a key opportunity identified in the Waroona Bushfire Special Inquiry and will bring much value to the Local Government sector as it will further enhance the training and bushfire management practices delivered locally to firefighters across Western Australia and other bushfire management practitioners.

The centre will facilitate and foster greater collaboration between agencies, volunteers and traditional custodians, helping us to better manage the large and complex bushfires that threaten WA year after year.

WALGA HONOURS 2019

WALGA Honours Awards recognise the most valuable and committed members of our community. There are six categories of awards in the program:

- The **Local Government Medal** and the **Life Membership Award** recognise outstanding achievements and significant contributions by Elected Members and Officers to the Association and/or to Local Government.
- The **Eminent Service Award** recognises personal commitment, eminent service and contribution to Local Government or the Association by an Elected Member, Serving Officer of the Association or a Local Government Member.
- Those who have provided a high degree of service as either a State Councillor for over 8 years or an Elected Member for more than 12 years could be eligible for the **Long and Loyal Award**.
- **Merit Awards** recognise Councillors who have demonstrated distinguished service to the community through their Local Government and Local Government Officers' can be nominated for the **Local Government Distinguished Officer Award** in recognition of their achievements.

Nomination packs are available by visiting the WALGA website at the following address: <http://www.walga.asn.au>. Nominations close 10 May. Awards will be presented to recipients at a ceremony held during the August 2019 Local Government Convention. *For further information contact Margaret Degebrodt, Executive Officer Governance on 9213 2036 or email mdegebrodt@walga.asn.au.*

Managing Alcohol in our Communities (MAIOC)

WALGA, together with the Mental Health Commission and Public Health Advocacy Institute of WA (PHAIWA) launched the Managing Alcohol in our Communities Guide on Friday 1 March. This event showcased excellent sector wide partnerships and will also help to guide Local Governments to continue to promote and support the development of

healthy communities. The guide is available for electronic download on the WALGA website.

Local Government Act Review Update

As you are aware the Minister for Local Government commenced a review of the Local Government Act with both a community and a Local Government consultation process in 2017. The Minister for Local Government announced the State Government's policy position on Phase 1 of the Local Government Act Review at the WALGA Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 1 August 2018, and in an accompanying media statement.

Phase 1 of the Local Government Act Review is well progressed with the Local Government Amendment Bill 2019 scheduled to be tabled in State Parliament next week (12-14 March) This Bill will include amendments to the Local Government Act that align with WALGA's advocacy on the following matters:

- Gifts
- Universal Training
- Standards of Behaviour
- CEO Recruitment and Performance Review
- Public Notices and Access to Information
- Administrative Efficiencies

Phase 2 of the Local Government Act Review has evolved into the formation of a **New Local Government Act** and is focused on the key themes of '*Agile, Smart and Inclusive*'. The Government releasing 11 associated "Detailed Discussion Papers" in October 2018;

Agile: Beneficial Enterprises | Financial Management | Rates

Smart: Administrative Efficiencies | Local Laws | Council Meetings | Interventions

Inclusive: Community Engagement | Integrated Planning and Reporting | Complaints Management | Elections

WALGA encouraged a strong Local Government response by coordinating a series of meetings and communication opportunities. Also WALGA, LG Professionals and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries partnered in hosting the Future of Local Government Forum. The Statewide Forum was held at Curtin University on Wednesday 30th January 2019 and was attended by 230 participants. All of the information from the LG Act forums, Future of Local Government forum and the submissions have been collated to inform WALGA's item on the Act review. Presently, the Department is seeking and accepting responses from Local Governments, individual Elected Members, Officers and the general community by 31 March 2019.

I would encourage all Elected Members to provide either an individual submission or contribute to your Local Government's submission.

New Chief Executive Officer

Nick Sloan, currently Executive Director of Local Government Planning & Service Delivery with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, will commence as our new CEO on 8 April.

Nick brings a wealth of experience, capacity and ideas to the role and we look forward to his leadership as WALGA moves into a new and exciting stage of its evolution.

PRESIDENT'S CONTACTS

During the December - March period, contacts that have occurred or are scheduled to take place prior to the March State Council meeting are as follows:

State Government Relations:

- Hon. David Templeman MLA, Minister for Local Government, Heritage, Culture and the Arts
- Hon. Alannah MacTiernan MLC, Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Ports;
- State Roads Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee

Local Government Relations

- Ms Caroline Spencer, Auditor General
- LGIS Board Meeting
- ALGA Board Meeting x2
- Executive Committee Meeting
- Local Government House Trust Meeting
- State Council Economic Development Policy Forum

Conferences / Workshops / Public Relations

- YourEveryDay Launch
- LGIS Facilitated Risk Management Workshop
- Future of Local Government Forum
- International Womens Day Breakfast
- Mayors & Presidents Forum

Zone Meetings

- Avon-Midland Zone Meeting
- Peel Country Zone Meeting

9. State Council Agenda

The State Council Agenda numbers and page numbers have been retained for easy reference.

MOTION

Moved	Cr. T Pratico	Seconded	Cr. T Jackson	Carried
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THAT the following recommendations in the State Council Agenda be endorsed with the exception of 5.5 and 5.6.

Agenda Items

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5.2	Economic Development Project (05-088-03-0001 DM).....	33
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5.4	Review of the Administrative Road Classification Methodology - Regional Roads within Rural/Non Built Up Areas (05-001-03-0033 MM).....	165
5.5	Interim Submission – Draft Position Statement: Container Deposit Scheme Infrastructure (05-036-03-0064 VJ)	185
5.6	Interim Submission – Parliamentary Inquiry into Short-Stay Accommodation (05-036-03-0016 CH)	196
5.7	Interim Submission – State Planning Policy 2.4 Basic Raw Materials (05-036-03-0017 CH)	217
5.8	Community Policy Reform Project (05-018-02-0010 KD).....	227
5.9	Submissions – Draft WA Cultural Infrastructure Strategy (05-012-03-0015 SM)	231
5.10	Interim Submission - Public Health Act 2016 Aquatic Facilities and Public Buildings Regulation Review (05-031-01-0001 EDR)	271
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6.2	Local Government Performance Monitoring Project 2017/2018 (05-036-04-0004 VJ)	309
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6.4	Completion of the Changing Places and Community Infrastructure Grant Programs (06-072-01-0001 and 06-071-01-0001 Respectively KD)	315
6.5	Update on Building and Energy's State Wide Cladding Audit (05-015-02-0010 VJ)	317
6.6	Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (01-006-03-0008 RNB)	321
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7.1.4	Report on Key Activities, People and Place (01-006-03-0014 JB)	352

7.2 Policy Forum Reports 356

7.2	Policy Forum Reports (01-006-03-0007 TB)	356
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8.1 Items Excluded for Discussion

Item 5.5 Draft Submission Statements – Container Deposit Scheme

Moved	Mayor G Henley	Seconded	Cr. S Stanley	Carried
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THAT the recommendation 5.5 in the State Council Agenda be endorsed

AMENDMENT ITEM 5.6

Moved	Mayor G Henley	Seconded	Cr. M Scott	Carried
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That the following amendment be adopted

The interim submission be supported subject to an amendment which makes it clear that a distinction under the City of Busselton planning scheme with respect to accommodation permissibility within the tourism area (as noted on page 203) turn on whether it is hosted as opposed to simply the provision of breakfast.

Items 6.1-6.9 Matters for Noting/Information

Moved	Cr T Jackson	Seconded	Cr. B Piesse	Carried
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THAT the items be received

7.1 7.4 Organisational Reports

Moved	Cr M Scott	Seconded	Mayor G Henley	Carried
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THAT the items be received

9. Discussion Forum/Zone Agenda Items

Items submitted by Councils for discussion - see reports

9.1 Cost of OAG Audit – City of Busselton

The City of Busselton has advised that the quote for their audit by the OAG has been received in the amount of \$41,000. The City has achieved excellent audit results over previous years and no major issues have been identified. The proposed auditor is the same one used by the City over preceding years. The cost of the previous audit was \$27,000. The increase in cost to the City will be substantial.

Mayor Henley foreshadowed a motion to be submitted to the following meeting.

9.2 Funding of Catchment Councils and NRM Programs

Moved	Cr J Meldrum	Seconded	Mayor G Henley	Carried
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THAT The SWZ Zone write to the Federal Minister for Agriculture, the Shadow Minister for Agriculture, the WA Minister for Agriculture, with copies sent to local federal and state representatives, proposing the following:

An increase in funding be provided to the various catchment councils and NRM programs to adequately resource the programs required to manage land care, threatened species and conservation issues in the SW of WA noting that the region is a biosecurity hotspot deserving of special attention.

10. Zone Status Report March 2019

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Up-date	WALGA Contact
Sth West C	2018 November 23 Zone Agenda Item 7.3 Proposed Bunbury Outer Ring Road Impacts on Bussell Highway	That: "SWZ - WALGA 1. Writes to the Premier expressing deep concerns at the current and future safety issue on the single lane Bussell Highway. 2. Provides copy to Minister for Transport. 3. Seeks a meeting with Minister for Transport on this issue, before Christmas, and 4. Refers it to the relevant committee of WALGA for further technical investigation and potential lobbying through state council.	WALGA attended a special meeting convened to discuss the Bunbury Outer Ring Road development on 11 February, hosted by Shire of Dardanup Feedback from this meeting was that issues raised by members were addressed. Funding to upgrade the Bussell Highway between Capel and Busselton to provide four traffic lanes remains a budget issue.	May 2019	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Sth West C	2017 November 24 Zone Agenda Item 9.2 Shire of Capel Submission Local Government Grant Scheme (ESL) Eligible Expenditure	That WALGA be requested to lobby the State Government for: 1. A comprehensive review of items of eligible expenditure under the Local Government Grant Scheme to enable the full costs of operating Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades to be met; and 2. The establishment of the general principle of equality of eligible expenditure across all emergency services for operating costs associated with their activities.	The State Government has advised that the recommendations from the Economic Regulation Authority review of the Emergency Services Levy is being considered as part of the Machinery of Government process currently reviewing the structure of DFES. This process includes a review of the ESL governance and operational arrangements. WALGA will continue to lobby for a review of the items of eligible expenditure under the Local Government Grant Scheme to enable the full costs of operating Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades to be met; and the general	Ongoing	Joanne Burges Executive Manager, People and Place jburges@walga.asn.au mailto:wcarter@walga.asn.au 9213 2018

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Up-date	WALGA Contact
			<p>principle of equality of eligible expenditure across all emergency services for operating costs associated with their activities.</p> <p>WALGA are in discussions with DFES regarding a comprehensive review of the eligible and ineligible item lists contained within the Local Government Grant Scheme Manual.</p> <p>WALGA most recently met with DFES on 21 May 2018 to discuss the Local Government Grant Scheme. The Association was pleased to hear there is recognition of the need for a review, particularly since the State Governments announcement of a Rural Fire Division and subsequent mitigation funding announced in the recent state budget. This provides a timely opportunity to review the principles and associated procedures manual. WALGA welcomed this approach and it is the Associations aim to build on the contributions of members during the Review of the ESL conducted by the Economic Regulation Authority. Further meetings with DFES will be established in late July to progress the scope of a review.</p> <p>A meeting is scheduled for 17 August and outcomes will be communicated the week following along with updates provided at the zone meetings.</p>		
Sth West C	2018 November 23 Zone Agenda Item 7.5 Decreased Funding for the	That: WALGA lobby the State Government for the provision of a more equitable funding allocation system for public libraries in Western Australia.	WALGA continues to meet with State Library WA, participates in an associated working group and is awaiting decisions from treasury regards 2019-20 funding. Pending such announcements a service and funding innovations discussion paper will be	March 2019	Joanne Burges Executive Manager, People and Place jborges@walga.asn.au mailto:wcarter@walga.asn.au 9213 2018

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Up-date	WALGA Contact
	Public Libraries – City of Busselton		released to the gather sector responses to continue to advocate in this space.		
Sth West C	2018 December 5 State Council Agenda Item 5.6 Standard Condition Development Guidelines	<p>THAT the recommendation be endorsed with the additional point;</p> <p>With further consideration to the sequencing of the stages of implementation</p>	<p>The Standard Development Conditions Guideline is a resource for Local Governments to refer to when they are reviewing or creating their own development conditions. The conditions within the Guideline are ordered in the most commonly used conditions, not the order to which they could be applied to a planning approval.</p> <p>Reordering the conditions into 'stages of implementation' has not been considered in this current version; however, it can be considered in a future revision of the document.</p> <p>This will require further discussion with members as to the appropriate sequencing, as each Local Government currently has a localised approach to how their conditions are ordered.</p> <p>The <i>Standard Development Conditions Guideline</i> has been desk-topped to WALGA style guidelines, placed on the Planning Improvement Portal for members to access and circulated to members.</p> <p>Copies of the report have been sent to the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Minister for Planning – Minister for Local Government – Chair, WA Planning Commission – Director General of Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, 	March 2019	<p>Joanne Burges Executive Manager, People and Place jborges@walga.asn.au mailto:wccarter@walga.asn.au 9213 2018</p>

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Up-date	WALGA Contact
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Director General of Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, - Building Commissioner - President, Urban Development Institute of Australia (WA) - President, Planning Institute of Australia (WA) - Executive Director, Housing Institute of Australia - President, Master Builders Association - Executive Director, Property Council 		
Sth West C	2018 February 23 Zone Agenda Item 9.2 Proposed Changes to Commonwealth Funding Arrangements for Environmental Groups	<p>That the SWZ request WALGA enter into negotiations with the relevant Commonwealth departments to address:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The negative impacts of the proposed conditions that will attaché to payments of funds to voluntary environmental management groups particularly, retrospectivity of post project reimbursement and insufficiency of project administrative costs, and 2. The need to ensure that any biosecurity projects avoid duplication, work collaboratively and are consistent with the provisions of the Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act 2007. 	<p>The Commonwealth has awarded a range of tenders, and the South West Catchments Council was successful in being awarded the tender for its region. The new contract makes significant changes for the NRM Regions and the community groups they support. The CEO of the South West Catchments Council - Mr Steve Ewings - would like to present the implications of the new funding arrangements and its implications for community to the next Zone meeting. For SWCZ consideration.</p> <p>The Agriculture Minister has agreed to review the BAM Act, commencing in 2019, which will provide for WALGAs advocacy on the issue. WALGA will also raise the issue with both the Minister for Agriculture and the Minister for Environment, at the next opportunity. Ongoing.</p>	March 2019	Mark Batty Executive Manager Environment and Waste Mbatty@walga.asn.au 9213 2078

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Up-date	WALGA Contact
Sth West C	2018 24 August Zone Agenda Item 7.1 Restrictions on taking gravel from DBCA Reserves	<p>THAT: The South West Zone of WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request WALGA to seek reconsideration of present DBCA (Parks and Wildlife Service) policy/position of refusing approval and/or prohibiting access by local governments to extract gravel on DBCA reserves and forest areas. 2. Propose a policy to DBCA that protects forests from the spread of dieback while allowing access to gravel for road building by local government authorities 	<p>WALGA raised with the Director General of the DBCA at the next meeting. The <i>Conservation and Land Management Act (1984)</i> may allow the Director General to enter into agreements that may include such activities. Final agreement will need to be sought by the Conservation Commission.</p> <p>It will be essential that any access arrangement negotiated mandates Local Government staff and contractors adhering to appropriate dieback management techniques.</p> <p>Ongoing.</p>	March 2019	Mark Batty Executive Manager Environment and Waste Mbatty@walga.asn.au 9213 2078
Sth West C	2018 November 23 Zone Agenda Item 7.1 Consistent Communication for Recycling	<p>THAT: The SW Zone of WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acknowledge the Bunbury Harvey Regional Council's letter of 19 July 2018, on behalf of the Wellington Waste Working Group, to the Municipal Waste Advisory Council; 2. Seeks advice from WALGA on its state-wide response to the "China National Sword" Crisis; 3. Obtain advice on the status of member contracts potentially affected by the "China National Sword" Crisis; and 4. Formulate a position for the SW Zone Group of Councils on its 	WALGA awaits the further consideration of the matter by the Zone.	March 2019	Mark Batty Executive Manager Environment and Waste Mbatty@walga.asn.au 9213 2078

<i>Zone</i>	<i>Agenda Item</i>	<i>Zone Resolution</i>	<i>WALGA Response</i>	<i>Up-date</i>	<i>WALGA Contact</i>
		recycling education and communication strategies.			

11. Finance

11.1 Financial Reports

SOUTH WEST ZONE WA LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2019

DETAILS	2017/18 ACTUAL \$	2018/19 ANNUAL BUDGET \$	2018/19 ACTUAL TO DATE \$
Opening Funds at 1 July	<u>12,387</u>	<u>12,427</u>	<u>12,323</u>
<u>Revenue</u>			
Interest on Investment	84	100	0
Member Council Contributions	7,200	7,200	7,200
Total Revenue	7,284	7,300	7,200
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Secretarial Service	(7,000)	(7,000)	(2,800)
Miscellaneous Expenses	(348)	(100)	(143)
Total Expenditure	(7,348)	(7,100)	(2,943)
Surplus (Deficit) for Period	(64)	200	4,257
Closing Funds at 28 February	12,323	12,627	16,580

Closing Funds at 28 February 2019 Represented By:

Cash at Bank

Cheque Account \$4,650

Term Deposit 1.1% - Holding Investment \$11,930

\$16,580

Less Creditor

(\$0)

Net Assets Available at 28 February 2019

\$16,580

11.2 Payments

Executive Officer for administrative services

\$1400

MOTION:

THAT:

1. *The financial report be received and account be approved for payment.*

Moved	Cr S Stanley	Seconded	Mayor G Henley	Carried
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12. Schedule of meetings 2019

This item was deferred to ascertain if a more suitable date was available for the April meeting noting that the preceding Friday is Good Friday and the 26th April is the last day to enable the SWZ Agenda items to be included in the State council Agenda.

The venue for the meeting is to be advised when confirmed noting that Councils will have a full program of activities in this period.

MOTION

Moved		Seconded		Carried
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THAT:

The amended proposed dates for meetings of the SWZ - WALGA be endorsed

In Brief

- The changes to the February meeting were in response to a request from WALGA to allow completion of consultation of the new Local Government Act.
- In making the changes some venues became unavailable necessitating changes. The willingness of the Councils to accommodate changes is appreciated
- A review of the venues over the last 3 years revealed that some council venues (Busselton and Donnybrook-Balingup) had been used out of sequence and to provide an equitable balance the following is proposed.

Month	Location
26 th April 2019	Dardanup
28 th June 2019	Harvey
27 th September	Manjimup
22 nd November	Nannup

13. Closure

The President thanked members and visitors for their attendance and the Shire of Collie members and their staff for the hospitality extended to the Zone Delegates and closed the meeting at 12.03 pm.

ATTACHMENTS

Shire of Donnybrook – Balingup minutes circulated with this agenda as a separate PDF