

# Murchison Country Zone of WALGA

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Shires of –ABN 75 305 122 944  
Cue  
Meekatharra  
Mount Magnet  
Murchison  
Sandstone  
Yalgoo



## MINUTES

### MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE

### OF

### Western Australian Local Government Association

### Friday 18 November 2022 - 9.30am

### Shire of Cue Administration Office – Austin Street Cue

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Shires of –  
Cue  
Meekatharra  
Mount Magnet  
Murchison  
Sandstone  
Yalgoo

ABN 75 305 122 944



## Ordinary Meeting, Shire of Cue Administration Office on Friday 18 November 2022

### 1. Opening

The Chair opened the meeting at 9.30am.

### 2. Attendance

#### 2.1 Delegates

Cr Rossco Foulkes-Taylor	Zone President Shire of Murchison
Cr Jorgen Jensen	President Mount Magnet Shire
CEO Tralee Cable	CEO Shire of Mount Magnet
Cr Ross Pigdon	President Shire of Cue
Cr Les Price	Deputy Zone President Shire of Cue
Cr Beth Walton	President Shire of Sandstone
Cr Harvey Nichols	Shire of Meekatharra
Cr Gail Simpson	Shire of Yalgoo
Cr Raul Valenzuela	Shire of Yalgoo
Cr Carol Hodshon	Shire of Sandstone
Cr Emma Foulkes-Taylor	Shire of Murchison
CEO Kelvin Matthews	CEO Shire of Meekatharra

#### 2.2 Observers

Ms Samantha Appleton	Executive Officer Murchison Country Zone
Mr Richard Towell	CEO Shire of Cue
Mr Ian Holland	CEO Shire of Yalgoo
Mr Charlie Brown	CEO Shire of Sandstone
Mr Bill Boehm	CEO Shire of Murchison

## 2.3 Visitors

### In Person

Ms Merome Beard MLA	Member for North West Central
Mr John Darcy	Stakeholder Manager Water Corporation
Ms Gabrielle O'Dwyer	Operations Support Manager Water Corporation
Ms Louise Admamson	Main Roads WA Midwest
Mr Nils Hay	CEO Midwest Development Commission
Hon Neil Thompson MLC	Member for Mining and Pastoral
Mr Mark Holdsworth	Director Regional Development Australia Mid West
Ms Yvonne Messina	Chair Regional Development Australia Mid West
Ms Samantha Adams	WALGA Roadwise
Ms Natasha Watson	Senior Health Planner WACHS
Ms Di Franklin	Operations Manager, Midwest Murchison WACHS
Mr Ron Wynn	Regional Director, WACHS – Midwest
Mr Nick Sloan	CEO WA Local Government Association
Ms Candy Hudson	Recovery Support Officer - Pilbara, Gascoyne, Mid West Engagement Branch
Mr Shane Love MLA	Shadow Minister for Local Government
Cr Stan Willock	Shire of Yalgoo
Ms Margi Weir	Executive Officer Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance
Mr Shane Love MLA	Shadow Minister for Local Government
Mr Sebastian Schuaro	Adviser to Leader of the Opposition
Mr Will Baston	Senior Vice President Durack Division – Liberal Party
<b>Via Zoom</b>	
Ms Liz Lockyer	Mental Health Coordinator WACHS Midwest
Ms Natasha Watson	Senior Health Planner WACHS

## 2.4 Apologies

Cr Karen Chappel	President WALGA
Hon. M. McGowan, MLA	Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal-State Relations
Hon. R.H. Cook, MLA	Deputy Premier; Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade; Tourism; Commerce; Science
Hon. S.M. Ellery, MLC	Minister for Education and Training
Hon. S.N. Dawson, MLC	Minister for Emergency Services; Innovation and ICT; Medical Research; Volunteering

Hon. A. MacTiernan, MLC	Minister for Regional Development;
Hon. D.A. Templeman, MLA	Agriculture and Food; Hydrogen Industry
Hon. J.R. Quigley, MLA	Minister for Culture and the Arts; Sport and Recreation; International Education; Heritage
Hon. P. Papalia, MLA	Attorney General; Minister for Electoral Affairs
Hon. W.J. Johnston, MLA	Minister for Police; Road Safety; Defence Industry; Veterans Issues
Hon. R. Saffioti, MLA	Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Energy; Corrective Services; Industrial Relations
Hon. Dr A.D. Buti, MLA	Minister for Transport; Planning; Ports
Hon. S.F. McGurk, MLA	Minister for Finance; Aboriginal Affairs; Racing and Gaming; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests
Hon. D.J. Kelly, MLA	Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services
Hon. A. Sanderson, MLA	Minister for Water; Forestry; Youth
Hon. J.N. Carey, MLA	Minister for Health; Mental Health
Hon. D.T. Punch, MLA	Minister for Housing; Lands; Homelessness; Local Government
Hon. R.R. Whitby, MLA	Minister for Disability Services; Small Business; Fisheries; Seniors and Ageing
Ms Janet-Hartley West	Minister for Environment; Climate Action
Hon Rosetta Sahanna MLC	Regional Manager Midwest-Gascoyne
Hon Kyle McGinn MLA	Region Central and Northern Regions Main Roads WA
Ms Carol Redford	Member for Mining and Pastoral
Mr Mike Schupp	Member for Mining and Pastoral
Mr Mustafa Yildiz	CEO Astrotourism WA
Cr Greg Payne	Logistics Manager Sandfire Resources
Ms Karin Grima	Director Local Government Support DLGSC
	President Shire of Yalgoo
	Murchison GeoRegion Project Officer
	MWDC

### 3. Official Opening of Conference

Newly elected member Ms Merome Beard MLA member for North West Central officially opened the meeting.

She commented on issues such as the Wiluna Meekatharra Road, signage at railway crossings, road signage, education including the School of the Air, biosecurity, housing, crime, hospitals and would like to see a review of PATS funding. She also commented on issues with nursing post staffing, teachers housing and support for them as well as a lack of banking facilities, insurance costs and the cost of doing business in the bush.

#### 4. Confirmation of the Minutes

##### 4.1 Confirmation of Minutes – Ordinary Meeting 22 April 2022.

###### Comment

Minutes of the meeting held Zone Meeting held 22 April 2022 have been circulated to Member Shires.

###### Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held 22 April 2022 be confirmed.

**RESOLUTION – Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor Seconded: Cr Walton**

**That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held 22 April 2022 be confirmed.**

**Carried**

## 5. WA Local Government Association

### 5.1 WALGA President

Mr Nick Sloan CEO of WALGA presented the Presidents Report to the meeting.

## President's Report

### December 2022

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#### Local Government Legislative Reform

WALGA is continuing discussions with the Hon John Carey MLA, Minister for Local Government, on the progress of the legislative reform process. The Minister has advised that the introduction of the draft Bill will be delayed and is now more likely to be introduced early in the 2023 sitting year.

The timing of the Bill's introduction and the drafting of the associated Regulations has significant implications for the sector, particularly those relating to electoral reforms and transitional arrangements. The Minister announced the progress of electoral reform in correspondence of 20 September to the 68 Local Governments affected by the changes. Transition to the election arrangements have been broadly consulted with.

The Minister has provided two pathways for reform; voluntary pathway that involves a submission to the Local Government Advisory Board following community consultation; or default pathway where the Local Governments future wards and representation status will be determined by changes to the Local Government Act.

Local Governments had been requested to inform the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries by the 28 October of the pathway it is choosing to take.

Advice received indicates that most Local Governments effected are choosing the voluntary pathway.

#### Attendance at Electronic Meetings – Amendments to Administration Regulations

New provisions were introduced effective from 9 November permitting Council meetings to be held by electronic means, and for Council Members to attend in-person Council meetings by electronic means. These provisions are required due to the cessation of the State of Emergency declaration on 4 November and will be introduced by way of amendment to Regulations 14A to 14E of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*.

In summary, Council will have the ability to determine to hold a council or committee meeting by electronic means, and the Mayor, President or Council will be permitted to authorize a request from a Council Member to attend an in-person meeting by electronic means. In the latter case, the new provision is being introduced to provide broad flexibility that strike a



balance between attending in-person or by electronic means. The requirement to be in a location that is suitable to the maintenance of confidentiality is included in the amendments.

WALGA is currently reviewing the suite of resources and guidelines pertaining to meetings to ensure they align with the new provisions and assist member Local Governments transition to the new provisions,

## **State Industrial Relations (IR) transition – 1 January 2023**

The State Government has announced that the ‘relevant day’ for the transition to the State industrial relations (IR) system will be 1 January 2023. Please see media statement from the WA Government [here](#). This will require all WA Local Governments (except the Shires of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Island) and Regional Councils to operate in the State IR system from 1 January 2023.

This means that from 1 January 2023:

- The [Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993](#) (WA) (MCE Act) and the [Industrial Relations Act 1979](#) (WA) will cover Local Government employers and employees (not the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth), with the exception of some provisions that apply to non-national system employers).
- The employment tribunal will be the [Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission](#) (not the Fair Work Commission).
- The regulator which enforces compliance against the State employment laws will be the [Department of Mines, Industry Regulations and Safety](#) (DMIRS) (not the Fair Work Ombudsman).
- The Federal Local Government Industry Award 2020 (LGIA) will become a transitional instrument and will continue to apply for each Local Government, subject to provisions in the MCE Act.
- For Local Governments with a Federally registered enterprise agreement, the agreement will become a transitional instrument and will continue to apply, subject to provisions in the MCE Act.

WALGA Employee Relations is supporting Local Governments to transition through the extensive resources it has developed for subscribers to the service including a checklist to prepare for the transition, factsheets and recorded webinars.

WALGA has also scheduled a webinar with DMIRS to address frequently asked questions about the transition and the transitional legislation, as well as a webinar on record keeping enabling Local Governments to comply with the new requirements on 1 January 2023.

## **Management of Bush Fire Brigades**

Under the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, Local Governments in Western Australia have responsibility for the establishment and management of volunteer Bush Fire Brigades (BFBs). WALGA has undertaken a significant consultation process with Members to consider its position on the most appropriate future management arrangements for BFBs as:

- the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* (WHS Act), enacted in March 2022, has raised the sector’s concerns regarding risk and liability in the management of BFBs; and
- the State Government is currently preparing Consolidated Emergency Services (CES) Act, which is expected to be released for consultation in early 2023.

A total of 89 submissions were received, representing 64% of the sector and 77% of Local Governments that manage BFBs. Based on the feedback, a revised advocacy position has been endorsed by State Council that requires the State Government to establish a clear

framework in the new CES Act to enable transfer of BFBs to the State Government if a Local Government decides to do so.

## **Best Practice Governance Review**

Following endorsement of Principles at WALGA's [2022 Annual General Meeting](#) to guide the development of governance model options, the Best Practice Governance Review Steering Committee has circulated a [Consultation Paper](#) to Local Governments.

Council endorsed positions on the five models proposed by the Consultation Paper are sought by **23 December 2022**.

The Steering Committee has undertaken a significant body of work to get to this point, which is contained in the [Background Paper](#).

In addition to the request for Council endorsed positions on the model options, independent research will also be undertaken in the form of a survey of all Elected Members and Chief Executive Officers.

An overarching timeline for the Review is available on the [website](#). Broadly, the intention is for the Steering Committee to reconvene in early 2023 to consider Council endorsed feedback as well as the results of the independent research.

The Steering Committee will put forward recommendations to be considered by State Council at their March 2023 meeting. Depending on the way forward, the intention will be for an amended Constitution to be considered by State Council in July 2023 ahead of consideration by Members at the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

The Steering Committee are receptive to any and all feedback on the proposed models and are looking forward to receiving Council endorsed submissions by the end of 2022.

To facilitate deliberations, the secretariat is available to provide briefing presentations on request.

**Cr Karen Chappel JP**  
**WALGA President**

## **President's Contacts**

The President's contacts since 9 September and scheduled before 7 December are as follows:

### **State Government Relations**

- Minister for Housing; Lands; Homelessness; Local Government, Hon John Carey MLA
- Minister for Housing; Lands; Homelessness; Local Government, Hon John Carey MLA – Local Government General Practitioner Procurement Roundtable
- Main Roads Director General, Transport, Peter Woronzow, Managing Director, John Erceg, Chief Operating Officer, Des Snook and Director Budget and Investment Planning, Maurice Cammack –State Road Fund to Local Government agreement discussion

- Minister for Emergency Services; Innovation and ICT; Medical Research; Volunteering, Hon Stephen Dawson MLC and Department Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner, Darren Klemm
- Department of Education – WA Education Awards judging role
- ABS – Webinar
- National Soils Advocate, The Hon Penny Wensley, Senior Adviser to the National Soil Advocate, Sue Bestow and Cr Ken Seymour

### **Zone Meetings**

- Peel Country Zone Meeting
- South West Country Zone Meeting

### **Local Government Relations**

- State Council Meetings:
  - Regional State Council Meeting
  - Information Forum
  - Strategic Forum
  - Finance and Services Committee Meeting
  - Best Practice Governance Review Steering Committee meeting x 2
  - People and Place Policy Team meeting
  - Local Government House Trust meeting
- WALGA events
  - WA Local Government Convention
    - o Mayor's and President's Forum
    - o Heads of Agencies Breakfast
    - o Annual General Meeting
    - o Convention Sessions
    - o Shire of Harvey – Signing of Climate Declaration
  - Aboriginal Engagement Forum
  - Mayors and Presidents Training forum
  - End of Year function
- LGIS
  - Board Meeting x 2
  - Board Dinner
  - JLT meeting
  - LGIS Volunteer Firefighter and WHS Forum
  - LGIS Key Partners Lunch event
- ALGA
  - Board Meeting x 3
  - Annual General Meeting
  - Annual Roads Congress – Hobart, Tasmania
  - Vice President/CEO meeting x 5
- Shire of Carnarvon Shire President, Cr Eddie Smith - Constitutional Change discussion
- Shire of Carnarvon Shire President, Cr Eddie Smith and Shire of Wickiepin Chief Executive Officer, Noel Mason – Youth Justice discussion
- City of Swan Leadership Symposium
- City of Stirling Christmas Dinner
- 4WDL VROC Dinner
- Regional Capitals Alliance WA meeting
- Local Government Convention 2022 Committee Meeting x 2
- Local Government Convention 2023 Planning Committee meeting

## **Conferences, Workshops, Public Relations**

- Western Australian Community Achievement Awards Gala Presentation Dinner
- Rural West Christmas Dinner
- Changemakers Breakfast – Town Team Movement event

### **5.2 Zone Representative to State Council - Cr Les Price**

1. Cr Price welcomed Ms Merome Beard MLA the newly elected member for North West Central and Ms Samantha Adams from WALGA Roadwise.
2. Since last meeting held 22 April 2022:
  - WALGA continues to advocate on a wide front of Local Government issues covering State matters and Federal concerns (via ALGA).
  - Policy and legislative agendas of both State and Federal governments has been hectic.
  - CEO's and Councillors may have noticed since both elections WALGA communications and activity arising from each area of new business put forward by both State and Federal governments.
3. There has been some advocacy around and activity centered on;
  - State emergency management and funding for emergency responses.
  - Child Safe policy – engaging with the Department for Communities, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSCI).
    - Developing a template for Local Government
    - Presentations from - Mike Rowe (DG Department of Communities)  
Lanie Chopping (DG DLGSCI)
    - Response to Child sexual abuse
    - Implementation of child safe practices
    - Developing a tool kit for Local Government to assist in implementation
  - Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act (2007) (BAM Act) Review
  - Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage Act 2021 (ACHA 2021) codesign process
  - Best Practice Governance review (WALGA)

A lot of activity around:

- Green energy
- Climate Change
- Electric vehicles
- Management of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades

Also many other matters as noted in the agenda.

4. Attendances: State Council Meetings
  - 4 May hosted by City of Cockburn
  - 6 July hosted by WALGA
  - 8 September 2022 hosted by Peel Country Zone at the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale
  - Special State Council Meeting 22 August 2022
  - Information forums
5. 22 August 2022 Special State Council Meeting to discuss the principles for the Best Practice Governance Review.
  - Steering committee appointed to oversee the project
  - Completed a survey on 11 November 2022Regional subsidiaries are proactive.
6. Committees, panels and forums:
  - MWAC
  - Honors Panel
  - Selection Committee
  - Environment and Waste Policy Team (Chair)
  - Continuing with Mining Communities Policy ForumZones are encouraged to contribute to the committee process.
7. Cr Price continues to maintain an awareness of issues around such as:
  - Family and domestic violence
  - Mental health, suicide and self-harm
  - Regional social issues
  - Community, regional housing
  - Health
  - Impact of mining activities
8. New Advisory Position – BAM Act Review Panel
  - Members are – Nick Sloan (WALGA CEO)

Rebecca Brown (Environmental & Waste)  
Melanie Davis (Biodiversity)  
Cr Les Price

## **WALGA Briefing Note – BAM Act Review Panel (*With notes from Cr Price*)**

*Panel to have 1<sup>st</sup> 10 Year Review*

*3 Stage Engagement Process*

*Report to Government March 2023*

### **Meeting with BAM Act Review Panel – MONDAY 5 September 2022**

1. **Purpose:** To provide context for the meeting and summarise the key feedback from WALGA Zones on the WALGA BAM Act Review Discussion Paper.
2. **Intent of the Meeting:** The purpose of the meeting is to assist the Panel in understanding how Local Governments interact with the BAM Act, what Local Governments need the Act to do and the issues from WALGA's perspective. The panel have received the WALGA Discussion Paper and may want to discuss the issues raised in more detail.
3. With limited time, there is no expectation of a comprehensive discussion – this is more about helping the Panel understand the issues and interactions between the Act and Local Government. More in depth, topic specific, discussion will be possible during stage 2 of the process.

#### **Panel Members**

Ms Kaylene Gulich – Chair	Dr Bruce Christie – Subject matter expert
Dr Mia Carbon – DPIRD expertise	Dr Mark Sweetingham – Subject matter expert
Ms Anna Ciffolilli – Legal expertise	Mr Cliff Winfield – Industry/community member

#### **4. Summary of feedback from Zones**

Feedback from all Zones has not yet been received as minutes are being finalised. Metropolitan Zones, limited feedback to date, main concerns related to corellas.

Country Zones feedback:

- Increased funding essential – Zones highlighted increasing risks and amount of biosecurity issues that need urgent attention.
- More strategic oversight of approach – some pests move between regions, approaches, control efforts and amount of funding raised may be inconsistent between Regional Biosecurity Groups. Wild dogs were cited by a number of Zones as an issue.
- Regional Biosecurity Groups- can be useful structures for information sharing and taking coordinated action. They provide expertise that the Local Governments don't have.

- Declared Pest Rate – concern that not all of those supposed to pay the rate are paying the rate and there are limited mechanisms for the State Government to make them pay. Also concern that it is inequitable and that everyone should pay the rate.
- Local Government funding for biosecurity action should be matched by the State Government.
- Management of Pests on various land classes – this includes State Government managed land and areas covered by native title. Concern was expressed that not enough is being done in some areas, particularly areas controlled by DBCA in the South West.
- Multiplier effect for unmanaged biosecurity issues – For example feral pigs can destroy habitat, crops and wetlands directly but also have the potential to spread dieback which has significant impact on food production and the natural environment.

### **WALGA Speaking Points:**

- Thank you to the Panel for the opportunity to meet with them and their recognition of Local Government as a key stateholder in biosecurity. **[Nick]**
- WALA has many roles in relation to biosecurity, including developing policy on behalf of the sector and providing consolidated feedback to Government, undertaking research and engaging the sector and providing consolidated feedback to Government, undertaking research and engaging the sector, representing the sector on Government/stakeholder groups, providing up to date information on existing and emerging biosecurity challenges and any opportunities, delivering programs to assist the sector, documenting best practice approach, providing services relating to biosecurity via development/implementation. **[Nick]**
- Local Governments role in biosecurity includes resourcing detection, response to incidents, ongoing management and control activities, community partnerships and engagement and enforcement. **[Les]**
- WALGA is actively engaging the sector to gain feedback on the issues being faced – many of the concerns are not directly related to the legislation itself, more to how it has been operationalised. **[Les]**
- Outline some of the concerns from Zones. **[Rebecca and Mel]**

### **Meeting Attendees**

Nick Sloan, CEO

Cr Les Price, Environment Policy Team

Rebecca Brown, Manager Environment and Waste

Melanie Davies, Biodiversity and Sustainability Project Officer

### **Discussion Paper**

#### **11 Key Themes**

1. Strategic direction, regional priorities
2. Agency responsibilities
3. Declared pest rate and RBG's (recognised biosecurity groups)
4. Environmental biosecurity
5. Responses to incursions
6. Management of declared pests in urban areas



7. Problematic non declared pests
8. Sustainable funding models
9. Compliance and enforcement
10. Monitoring research and innovation
11. Stronger focus on community education

9. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 – Stakeholder Codesign Workshop14 - 15 September

ACH Council appointed 11 members (predominantly from Aboriginal groups)

- Activity categories – Tick 1, 2, 3 and exempt.
  - Removing inconsistencies and replication among different tiers.
  - Include provisions to allow for activities not specified
- ACH management plans – Looking at a template (size, impact, complexity, purpose, resources).
- Local LACH's service fee structure to be announced
  - No fees for tiers 1 & 2 activities
  - Looking at fee structure, based on activities, scale and complexity of project.
  - ACH Management code, defining parameters around level of previous ground disturbance – “Like for Like” – how to define if previously disturbed land still has significance.
- Aboriginal Groups – Wanting to be involved at all levels of activity  
Want to be involved in decision making  
Proponents to “prove disturbance”.  
Change of purpose is “new”.

LACHS issues – not involved – PBC takes over.

## LG Impacts

- Ongoing maintenance
- Repair/replacement activities
- Erosion control – vegetation control
- Stormwater outlets/jetties/parks/gardens/roads
- Renovation of existing buildings
- Existing disturbed land should be exempt unless there is likely to be impact on C.H.
- Definition of “developed area”.
- Concerns around properties greater than 1100m<sup>2</sup>.
- WALGA has been promoting exemption for freehold properties in cities and towns.

Exemption For	Bushfire clearing
	Flood damage
	Road repairs

- Developing due diligence guidelines around the A.C.H. management code.



- Asking government to provide sufficient funding.
- Review every five years - Timing to be an issue.  
Bottlenecks from response time for applications seeking permits/approvals.
- Idea of identifying Local Government activities and providing permits for say four years.
- - Upcoming workshops on phase 3 (very important).  
- Please do submissions identifying concerns (very important).

Susie Moir and her team at WALGA

LACHS not PBCIS

Clarity – What is Cultural Significance?

- Ceremonial
  - Birthing places
  - Scattered remains
  - Camping sites/stop over points
  - Aesthetics
  - Sounds, noises
  - Talk of sea beds and above ground
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Reference Group Meeting 24/11/2022  
Discussing recently released documents from Department of Planning Lands and Heritage.

Ms Margi Weir presented information about the activities of the Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance.

### 5.3 WALGA Status Report

## COMPLETE ZONE STATUS REPORT NOVEMBER 2022

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Murchison C	21 April 2022 Zone Agenda Item 7.5 Vehicles being Driven on Unsealed Roads Closed Due to Wet Conditions	That the Murchison Country Zone of WALGA: 1. Endorses the responses prepared by the Shires of Yalgoo and Cue as the official response of the Zone; 2. That the response is forwarded to WALGA.	The Infrastructure Policy Team resolved:  1. The key legislative / regulatory requirements appear to be in place; 2. Vehicles being driven on closed roads occurs in other remote Local Government areas, although the situations are different around the State; 3. In the absence of identified technology solutions an initial approach be made by WALGA to ARRB and PATREC to determine if research centres are interested in developing a research project.  <b>The Association has been in contact with ARRB, and PATREC who both advised that they were not aware of suitable technology.</b>	<b>November 2022</b>	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Murchison C	2021 23 April Zone Agenda Item 10.1 Mental Health	That the Murchison Country Zone request WALGA to: 1. Make a representation to the Minister for Health and the Minister for Mental Health highlighting the high rate of suicide in the Midwest Region and lobby the State Government to urgently address the lack of adequate mental health resources in the region and investigate what actions could be taken to address the underlying causes of suicidal ideation; and 2. Request that the State Government be requested to fully restore proper and adequate levels of service to the Murchison Sub-region in the Departments of Child	<b>WALGA continues to be a member of the Mentally Healthy WA Steering Committee which oversees the implementation of the evidence-based Act Belong Commit program. The Act Belong Committee program is promoted to Local Government who are encouraged to become members and access a range of community resources including resources for youth and Aboriginal cohorts.</b>  <b>WALGA continues to liaise with the Mental Health Commission around the release of the new Mental Wellbeing Framework in</b>	<b>November 2022</b>	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039



		Protection, Youth Justice and Adult Corrective Services.	late 2022 which will inform future initiatives relevant to Local Government.  WALGA's Community Policy Advocacy Positions will be reviewed and updated during 2022/ 23 and this issue will be considered for inclusion as part of that process.		
Murchison C	2021 19 November Zone Agenda Item 7.4 Review of the Mining Act 1978	That Murchison Country Zone of WALGA: 1. Recommend WALGA Conduct a survey of all Local Governments support a review of the Mining Act 1978 with respect to supporting a review of those components of the Mining Act 1978 that affect Local Governments; and Murchison Country Zone of WALGA Minutes 19 Nov 2021 41 2. that the recommendation be forwarded to the Mining Communities Policy Forum of WALGA to undertake a review.	WALGA has been in discussions with the Regional Development Australia - Mid West Gascoyne (RDAMWG) regarding the issues being considered by the Mining Communities Policy Forum with a view to progressing a discussion on the relationships between Mining Companies and communities.  The RDAMWG has contacted Shire CEOs regarding an RDA sponsored forum between Shires and mining companies being planned for early 2023 with the anticipated involvement of a representative of CRC TiME (Transformations in Mining Economies).	November 2022	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039

#### **5.4 Agenda Briefs – WALGA Meeting 4 May 2022**

##### **Recommendation -**

That WALGA agenda items 5.1,5 to 5.6 be supported and agenda information items 6.1 to 6.6 be noted.

**RESOLUTION - Moved: Cr Price                      Seconded Cr E Foulkes-Taylor**

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**That**

**WALGA agenda items 5.1, 5.3, 5.4 and 5.6 be supported;  
WALGA agenda item 5.2 is not supported;  
An alternative motion for WALGA agenda item 5.5 has been passed by  
delegates of the Murchison Country Zone of WALGA;  
and  
agenda information items 6.1 to 6.6 be noted.**

**Carried**

Hon Neil Thompson addressed the meeting about his activities and issues of concern.

# **MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA**

## **FLYING AGENDA**

### **WALGA STATE COUNCIL MATTERS FOR DECISION and NOTING**

#### **AT WALGA MEETING OF WEDNESDAY 7 DECEMBER 2022**

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*The following recommendations have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 7 December 2022 and which contains important detail of each item.*

*Each recommendation is followed by a direction to refer to the full WALGA State Council Agenda and 3 voting options. This is an editable Word Document so all that is required is to delete the 2 voting options you do not support and in the case of option 3 state your alternative recommendation.*

*Please note that this agenda will be included in our Zone Agenda for discussion on 18 November 2022 so no response is required until our meeting on the Friday 18 November 2022.*

## 5.4.1 Matters for Decision

### 5.1 2022 Annual General Meeting Resolutions

*By Tim Lane, Manager Association and Corporate Governance*

#### 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.*

### 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):
  - Road Traffic Issues
  - Car Parking and Traffic Congestion Around Schools
  - Proposal for Regional Road Maintenance Contracts with Main Roads WA
  - Northern Australian Beef Roads Program
  - 3D House Printing Building Compliance
  - South West Native Title Settlement
  - Land Offset Compensation to Local Governments
  - Review of the Rating Methodology used by the Valuer-General
  - Reform of the *Cat Act 2011*
  - Abandoned Shopping Trolleys
  - 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](#)).

### Attachment

- [WALGA 2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes](#)

### Background

The 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on Monday, 3 October 2022.



11 member motions (including two items of Special Urgent Business), as follows, were considered and supported by members at the AGM.

### **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.*

### **3.8 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.*

#### **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.*

#### **3.12.2 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.*

In addition to the member motions, an executive motion was considered, recommending the endorsement of a set of Governance Principles as part of the WALGA Best Practice Governance Review Project. The Principles were endorsed without amendment.

### **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.*

## **Comment**

Comment on the 2022 AGM resolutions is as per below:

### **3.1 Road Traffic Issues**

It is recommended that this resolution be referred to the Infrastructure Policy Team for further work to be undertaken.

### **3.2 Car Parking and Traffic Congestion Around Schools**

It is recommended that this resolution be referred to the Infrastructure Policy Team for further work to be undertaken.

### **3.3 Proposal for Regional Road Maintenance Contracts with Main Roads WA**

It is recommended that this resolution be referred to the Infrastructure Policy Team for further work to be undertaken.

### **3.4 Northern Australian Beef Roads Program**

It is recommended that this resolution be referred to the Infrastructure Policy Team for further work to be undertaken.

### **3.5 3D House Printing Building Compliance**

It is recommended that this resolution be referred to the People and Place Policy Team for further work to be undertaken.

### **3.6 South West Native Title Settlement**

It is recommended that this resolution be referred to the People and Place Policy Team for further work to be undertaken.

### **3.7 Land Offset Compensation to Local Governments**

It is recommended that this resolution be referred to the Environment and Waste Policy Team for further work to be undertaken.

### **3.8 Review of the Rating Methodology used by the Valuer-General**

In respect valuation methodologies in other States and Territories, it is noted that within South Australia and Victoria 89% of the Local Governments use Capital Value, Tasmania is progressing to Capital Value whilst New South Wales is based on Land Value only, Northern

Territory is based only on Unimproved Capital Value, Queensland is Site Value and Unimproved Value and the ACT is Unimproved Value only. It is clear that whilst there is a range of valuations across Australia there is a determined trend to a single use valuation methodology across jurisdictions, in favour of a Capital Valuation system.

Feedback from Local Governments in WA has been to request a review of the current valuation system.

It is recommended that this resolution be endorsed for action.

### **3.10 Reform of the Cat Act 2011**

This is a developing issue in the sector. A number of Local Governments have already attempted to make Cat Local Laws that seek to prohibit cats from roaming, require cats to be securely kept on premises of the owner, and prohibited from being in any public place. Parliament's Delegated Legislation Committee has disallowed a number of such attempts on the grounds that the local law-making head of power in the Cat Act does not contemplate local laws to be made for these purposes.

The Committees views are summarised in this excerpt from the Annual Report 2016 (Report 89 at 5.32):

*In each of these cases, the Committee considered that the relevant provisions of the local law were inconsistent with or repugnant to the provisions of the Cat Act 2011 which:*

- *allow for cats to be in public places unless they do not comply with the provisions of the Act requiring registration, microchipping and sterilisation*
- *empower the making of local laws prohibiting cats in certain specified areas.*

As this resolution is consistent with WALGA's current advocacy position which supports a review of the Cat Act that will introduce broader powers of cat control, it is recommended that this resolution be endorsed for action.

#### **3.12.1 Abandoned Shopping Trolleys**

This item has been considered previously by the Governance & Organisational Services Policy Team, where the recommended action was for this issue to be addressed by each Local Government working with their retailers.

Based on the above it is recommended that this item be referred back to the Governance & Organisational Services Policy Team for further consideration.

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

This resolution will be considered in a separate Agenda item.

It is recommended that this resolution be noted.

### **3.11 WALGA Best Practice Governance Review – Principles**

The Governance Principles were endorsed by State Council at a special meeting on 22 August, before being endorsed by members at the 2022 AGM. Since then, the Best Practice Governance Review Steering Committee have finalised a Consultation Paper, which has been circulated to all Local Governments seeking a Council endorsed position on the five model options presented in the paper by 23 December.

It is recommended that this resolution be noted.

In considering these resolutions from the AGM, State Council and State Council Policy Teams are guided by Clause 22(7) of the [WALGA Constitution](#), as follows:

*Where the State Council considers that a direction or decision from an Annual General Meeting has been made without information or a material nature or in circumstances which have materially altered and such direction or decision is not in the best interests of the Association, the State Council may decline to follow that direction or decision and, in that event, the Chief Executive Officer by notice shall advise the Ordinary Members of the decision of the State Council and the reasons for that decision.*

Members will be informed of progress on the above issues through Policy Team Reports in future State Council Agendas and through the AGM Status Report.

- **Support WALGA Recommendation**

## **5.2 Elected Member Superannuation**

*By Tim Lane, Manager Association and Corporate Governance*

### **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.**

### **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.

- **Not support WALGA Recommendation**

## 5.3 Biosecurity Advocacy Position

*By Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Environment*

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



5. ***Ensure that the criteria and process for listing of declared pests is evidence-based, timely and transparent.***
6. ***Have an increased emphasis on compliance through education and enforcement activity, to ensure land managers are aware of their legislative responsibilities and are supported to implement biosecurity actions.***
7. ***Facilitate the use of new technologies, strategic monitoring, and the establishment of data management systems to inform biosecurity investment decisions and support adaptive management.***
8. ***Improve the community's understanding, awareness and action in relation to biosecurity to assist with threat surveillance and timely response to incursions.***

### **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.
- **Support WALGA Recommendation**

## **5.4 Submission on *Environmental Regulation Reform: A Strategic Review of Regulatory Delivery and Fees for Industry Regulation***

*By Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Environment*

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

### **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.

- *Please indicate your stance on this recommendation by deleting 2 of the below options. In the case of an alternative recommendation, please state alternative recommendation.*
- **Support WALGA Recommendation**

## 5.5 Updated Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advocacy Position

*By Susie Moir, Policy Manager Resilient Communities*

### 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.***

### 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.

- **Alternative Recommendation**

**Recommendation –**

That

WALGA advocate for and support the recognition of regional local Aboriginal people to be actively engaged in the Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services ('LACHS') groups;

and

That the various Prescribed Body Corporates (PBC's) be required to actively seek out local regional members to be included in the consultation and decision making process.

**RESOLUTION -      Moved: Cr Price      Seconded: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor**

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That

**WALGA advocate for and support the recognition of regional local Aboriginal people to be actively engaged in the Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services ('LACHS') groups;**

**and**

**That the various Prescribed Body Corporates (PBC's) be required to actively seek out local regional members to be included in the consultation and decision making process.**

**Carried 11/1**

## 5.6 Review of Coastal Planning Policy Position

*By Ashley Robb, Acting Policy Manager, Planning and Building*

### 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.**

### 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.
- **Support WALGA Recommendation**

**Carried**

Hon Neil Thompson MLC Member for Mining and Pastoral addressed the meeting.

Ms Candy Hudson Recovery Support Officer introduced herself to the group and described her role in the region.

Mr Shane Love MLA Shadow Minister for Local Government addressed the meeting.

Mr Nils Hay CEO Midwest Development Commission addressed the meeting about MWDC activities including the Murchison Geo Regions project.

Ms Di Franklin Operations Manager Midwest Murchison WACHS presented the Murchison Service Plan to the meeting.

## 6. MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

### 6.1 WALGA Best Practice Governance Review Update

*By Tim Lane, Manager Corporate and Association Governance*

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

#### 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.

*For delegates to the meeting the consultation paper has been sent as an attachment.*

### 6.2 2022-23 October Federal Budget

*By Dana Mason, Manager Economics*

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

#### 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.

### **6.3 Supporting the Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings – Release of 7 Star Homes Cost Investigation**

*By Claire Lings, Project Officer, Building*

#### **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.**

#### **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**

*By Daniel Thomson, Economist*

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the WALGA October 2022 Quarterly Economic Briefing be noted.**

#### **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.

## **6.5 WALGA Submission on Phase Two of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 Co-design Process**

*By Alina Hobson, Policy Officer, Resilient Communities*

### **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.**

#### **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.

## **6.6 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC)**

*By Rebecca Brown, Manager, Waste and Environment*

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

#### **Executive Summary**

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

## 6.0 Matters for Consideration

### 6.1 Financial Statements

*Proposed by* Executive Officer

*Attachments* Income & Expenditure –01/07/2021 to 30/06/2022  
Income & Expenditure –01/07/2022 to 31/10/2022

#### **Comment –**

Refer Financial Statements on next page

Reconciled balances of account as at 30 June 2022 –

Cheque Account (229 492)	\$18,500.13
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Reconciled balances of account as at 31 October 2022 –

Cheque Account (229 492)	\$31,500.13
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#### **Recommendation –**

That the Financial Statements for the periods 1 July 2021 to 31 June 2022 and 1 July 2022 to 31 October 2022 be received.

**RESOLUTION –      Moved: Cr Walton      Seconded: CEO Matthews**

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**That the Financial Statements for the periods 1 July 2021 to 31 June 2022 and 1 July 2022 to 31 October 2022 be received.**

**Carried**

# **MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1/07/2021 to 30/06/2022**

**Bank Balance (as Per B/S) 01/07/21**

**\$16,185.14**

## Income

Date	Source	Amount
14/07/2021	Shire Of Cue - Subscription	\$2,500.00
15/07/2020	Shire Of Meekatharra - Subscription	\$2,500.00
23/07/2021	Shire Of Yalgoo - Subscription	\$2,500.00
26/07/2021	Shire Of Sandstone - Subscription	\$2,500.00
06/08/2021	Shire Of Mount Magnet - Subscription	\$2,500.00
14/10/2021	Shire of Murchison - Subscription	\$2,500.00
	<b>Total Income to 30 June 2022</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>

## Payments

Date	Source	Amount
29/11/2021	Samantha Appleton – Executive Officer Fees and Reimbursements	\$4,729.90
29/11/2021	Samantha Appleton – Catering Reimbursement	\$463.51
28/04/2022	Samantha Appleton – Executive Officer Fees and Reimbursements	\$4,911.60
28/04/2022	Murchison Club Hotel - Catering	\$1,050.00
28/04/2022	Cr R Foulkes-Taylor – Honorarium	\$600.00
28/04/2022	Cr L Price – Honorariums	\$930.00
	<b>Total Expenditure to 30 June 2022</b>	<b>\$12,685.01</b>

## Reconciliation

Balance Bought Forward 01/07/2020	\$16,185.14
Add Income Received	\$15,000.00
Less Expenditure	-\$12,685.01
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$18,500.13</b>
<b>Balance as per Bank Statement 30 June 2022</b>	<b>\$18,500.13</b>

## Murchison Country Zone of WALGA

### Financial Statement to 30 June 2022

Account	Budget 2021-22	Actual 2021-22	
<b>Income</b>			
General Subscriptions	15,000	15,000	
Interest Earned	20	0	
Reimbursements	0	0	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>15,020</b>	<b>15,000</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Meeting Expenses	4,000	1,634	
Teleconferences			
Special Meetings & Workshops			
Bank Fees & Charges	20	0	
Reimbursable Expenses	100	0	
Unclassified Expenses (Minute Book)			
Zone Representative Gratuities	1,530	1,530	
Executive Officer Services	8,000	8,000	
Executive Officer Reimbursements	2,000	1,521	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>15,650</b>	<b>12,685</b>	
<b>Net Income/(Loss)</b>	<b>(-630)</b>	<b>2,315</b>	



# **MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1/07/2022 to 31/10/2022**

**Bank Balance (as Per B/S) 01/07/22**

**\$18,500.13**

## **Income**

Date	Source	Amount
14/07/2022	Shire Of Cue - Subscription	\$2,600.00
15/07/2022	Shire Of Meekatharra - Subscription	\$2,600.00
23/07/2022	Shire Of Yalgoo - Subscription	\$2,600.00
26/07/2022	Shire Of Sandstone - Subscription	\$2,600.00
06/08/2022	Shire Of Mount Magnet - Subscription	\$2,600.00
	<b>Total Income to 31 October 2022</b>	<b>\$13,000.00</b>

## **Payments**

Date	Source	Amount
	Nil Expenditure	
	<b>Total Expenditure to 31 October 2022</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

## **Reconciliation**

Balance Bought Forward 01/07/2020	\$18,500.13
Add Income Received	\$13,000.00
Less Expenditure	\$0.00
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$31,500.13</b>
<b>Balance as per Bank Statement 31 October 2022</b>	<b>\$31,500.13</b>

## Murchison Country Zone of WALGA

### Financial Statement to 31 October 2022

Account	Budget 2022-2023	Actual 2022-2023	Projected 2022-2023
<b>Income</b>			
General Subscriptions	15,600	13,000	15,600
Interest Earned	20	0	20
Reimbursements	0	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>15,620</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>15,620</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Meeting Expenses	4,600		4,600
Teleconferences			
Special Meetings & Workshops			
Bank Fees & Charges	20		20
Reimbursable Expenses	100		100
Unclassified Expenses (Minute Book)			
Zone Representative Gratuities	1530		1530
Executive Officer Services	8000		8000
Executive Officer Reimbursements	2000		2000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>16,250</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16,250</b>
<b>Net Income/(Loss)</b>	<b>(-630)</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>(-630)</b>

## 6.2 Review of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007: Consideration of WALGA Discussion Paper

*By Rebecca Brown, Manager Environment and Waste*

### Background

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

The [Independent Panel](#) undertaking the review, is using a three-stage engagement process:

- Stage 1 (closed) - open submissions and a survey to identify major themes and issues
- Stage 2 - stage 1 will 'provide the foundation for participatory processes to further explore themes and issues'
- Stage 3 - broader engagement to get feedback on the findings and potential solutions, expected to take place in late 2022/early 2023.

The Independent Panel is required to make its report, including any recommended amendments to the Act, to the Minister for Agriculture and Food by March 2023.

WALGA prepared a [Discussion Paper](#) to inform comment on the Review, which includes 11 key biosecurity themes and related recommendations reflecting issues raised by Local Government, and those identified in the [Auditor General's 2013 and 2020 Reports](#).

### Policy Implications

WALGA's current Policy Position on Biosecurity, was endorsed in 2017 and is available in the [Advocacy Positions Manual](#) (Section 4.5).

### Comment

WALGA is seeking Zones' consideration of the recommendations included in the Discussion Paper to inform its submission to the Review on behalf of the sector and the development of an updated Biosecurity Advocacy Position. WALGA intends to put an updated Policy Position to the December State Council meeting. Local Governments are also strongly encouraged to make their own submissions to the review as appropriate in Stage 2 and 3.

### Recommendation -

That the Zone endorse the following recommendations:

1. Strategic direction and regional priorities: The State Government develop a strategic framework that enables the prioritisation of biosecurity threats in geographically defined regions and sets targets for declared pest management.
2. Agency responsibilities: The roles and responsibilities of each State Government department responsible for biosecurity management need to be a clearly defined and communicated, a formalised structure for different agencies to work together established, and increased investment made in declared pest management on State Government managed land.
3. Declared Pest Rate and Recognised Biosecurity Groups: If the Declared Pest Rate and Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBGs) are to continue to be key mechanisms for the management of widespread and established declared pests, changes are required to improve their operation and effectiveness to better support the concept of shared responsibility.



6. **Management of declared pests in urban areas:** Declared pest management in all urban areas requires support through an appropriate funding mechanism.
7. **Problematic non-declared pests:** The process for the listing of declared pests needs to be timely and transparent to ensure that land managers, including Local Government, are not resourcing the control of an increasing number of problematic non-declared pest species.
8. **Sustainable funding model:** A sustainable and equitable funding model is required to manage the increasing biosecurity management threat.
9. **Compliance and enforcement:** The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Developments responsibility for compliance and enforcement needs to be adequately resourced and enacted.
10. **Monitoring, research and innovation:** Strategic monitoring, use of new technologies and the establishment of data management systems are required to inform biosecurity investment decisions and support adaptive management.
11. **Community education and involvement:** A stronger focus on community education to increase understanding and awareness will improve engagement with biosecurity management programs and assist with timely incursion responses.

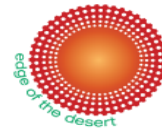
**CARRIED**

Footnotes

1. J Taylor RAC Council Liaison Officer email advice, 24 August 2022.
2. *Regional Strategies for Significant Local Government Roads 2022 – Goldfields Esperance* page 10.
3. J Taylor RAC Council Liaison Officer email advice, 24 August 2022.



Shire OF  
Wiluna



### 6.3 Sealing of Goldfields Highway – Meekatharra Wiluna Road

Proposed by: Shire's of Meekatharra and Wiluna

#### MEMBER COMMENT

The WALGA Murchison Zone Member Councils would be aware that the Goldfields Highway from Wiluna to Meekatharra remains unsealed with approximately 124kms still in (poor) gravel condition. The Meekatharra Wiluna Road (part Goldfields Highway) is an important strategic regional connector which services the mining, pastoral and tourism industries and provides pivotal accessibility to remote indigenous communities in the Northern Goldfields, Murchison, Mid West and Gascoyne regions of Western Australia. The Shires of Meekatharra and Wiluna are both key stakeholders in the road and have expressed their desire to see the road sealed as quickly as possible. In doing so, the project will complete the only section of unsealed State Highway remaining in WA. Sealing the remaining circa 124km will improve accessibility for tourists, pastoralists, mining and indigenous communities that will deliver direct local freight and tourism benefits; significantly improve the travel time between Meekatharra and Wiluna, and the connector regions of the Goldfields and Pilbara, and reduce driver fatigue and vehicle accidents that occur due to dust and the loose road surface. Furthermore, the Meekatharra Wiluna Road is subject to regular flooding events that render the road impassable by users. This project will therefore substantially reduce the impact of heavy rainfall on road closures which leave the community extremely isolated.

While originally scheduled for sealing in 2016/17 in accordance with the Business Case prepared by the Mid West Development Commission and with both Councils financial contribution, the project did not proceed and funding for the project was withdrawn. The road has continued to deteriorate with the unsealed gravel section only being minimally maintained by Main Roads WA (MRWA).

The Shire's of Meekatharra and Wiluna prepared a Business Case Briefing Paper in March this year that was presented to the WA Minister for Transport to propose and support the remaining circa 124km of the unsealed section of the Goldfields Highway be sealed. The Minister responded advising that (only) 17kms will be sealed and that this is planned for two priority locations by 2025. This 17kms is a \$20m project that is co-funded by State and Federal Government where both governments acknowledge that there is circa 126kms to be sealed<sup>1</sup>. The Roads 2040 Regional Road Development Strategy also identifies the upgrade and sealing of the Meekatharra Wiluna Road section of the Goldfields Highway as a priority for the region that is the only section of a WA State Highway remaining unsealed. As noted in the Roads 2040 Regional Road Development Strategy for the Goldfields Esperance Region, one area of key importance is to seal the section of Goldfields Highway between Meekatharra and Wiluna<sup>2</sup>.

Both Shire President's (Cr Nichols from Meekatharra and Cr Grundy from Wiluna) released a Media Statement in September this year raising the urgency of situation and calling on the State Government to commit to a program of sealing the remaining circa 124km, and not merely 17kms. Both Shire's have raised the matter with the RAC in accordance with the RAC

Regional Road Safety program who have confirmed their support for the sealing of the road and will lobby MRWA on our behalf<sup>3</sup>. The Shire of Wiluna will also present this Motion to its WALGA Goldfields Esperance Zone next meeting for endorsement.

**Recommendation -**

That the Murchison Country Zone of WALGA;

1. support the Shire's of Meekatharra and Wiluna in sealing the remainder of the Goldfields Highway (Meekatharra Wiluna Rd) as a matter of priority,
2. make representation to the State and Federal Governments on behalf of the Shire's of Meekatharra and Wiluna to provide funding for the completion of the project, and
3. include this motion and support in the next WALGA State Council Agenda.

**RESOLUTION -                      Moved: CEO Matthews                      Seconded: Cr Nicholls**

---

**That the Murchison Country Zone of WALGA;**

- 1. support the Shire's of Meekatharra and Wiluna in sealing the remainder of the Goldfields Highway (Meekatharra Wiluna Rd) as a matter of priority,**
- 2. make representation to the State and Federal Governments on behalf of the Shire's of Meekatharra and Wiluna to provide funding for the completion of the project, and**
- 3. include this motion and support in the next WALGA State Council Agenda.**

**Carried**

Mr Mark Holdsworth Director of Regional Development Australia Midwest addressed the meeting about recent RDAMW activities.



## 6.4 Ore Spillage Responses

Proposed by Executive Officer

### **Comment –**

At the April 2022 meeting of the Murchison Country Zone of WALGA the following resolution was passed:

**RESOLUTION - Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor Seconded: Cr Walton**

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**That the Murchison Country Zone write to DMIRS, WA Police, Main Roads Dept and relevant mining companies hauling ore to Geraldton from mines in the Midwest Zone, (and CCing WALGA's Transport Committee) expressing our grave concerns about the ore flying off and out of ore haulage trucks and causing damage to the windscreens, tyres and paintwork to the vehicles of other road users, and highlight the increase stress levels and fear of other road users as they approach these trucks.**

**Carried**

Since the resolution was passed mining companies and government agencies were written to expressing the concern of Zone representatives about incidents that have occurred. Responses received have been circulated to Zone members. Additionally, WA Police provided a direct contact for reporting incidents.

I have sought recent comment from WA Police concerning this with the reply received below:

**Good Afternoon Samantha**

*I have now been in my role for a few months and have been monitoring the iron ore spillage issue.*

*I'm pleased to report that during this time, I have not received any further complaints in relation to spillage from heavy vehicles within the Mid West-Gascoyne District. Additionally, my staff, who regularly patrol all of our major arterial roads, have not had cause to take any enforcement action.*

*It appears that education and industry alliance meetings may have addressed, if not significantly improved this issue.*

*Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further.*

*Regards*

**George TILBURY | Sergeant 8947**  
District Traffic Coordinator – Mid West Gascoyne District  
Western Australia Police Force  
21 Marine Terrace, Geraldton WA 6530  
T: (08) 99 234 630 | Mobile: 0467 373 920  
E: [george.tilbury@police.wa.gov.au](mailto:george.tilbury@police.wa.gov.au) W: [www.police.wa.gov.au](http://www.police.wa.gov.au)

**Recommendation -**

That the information regarding ore spillages on roads be received.

**RESOLUTION – Moved: Cr Nicholls                      Seconded: Cr Valenzuela**

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**That the information regarding ore spillages on roads be received.**

**Carried**

**6.5    WALGA Best Practice Governance Review**

The WALGA Best Practice Review Consultation Paper - Model Options was circulated to delegates to consider.

**Recommendation -**

That the Murchison Country Zone of WALGA supports Option 5 to retain the current model.

**RESOLUTION – Moved: Cr Jensen      Seconded: CEO Matthews**

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**That the Murchison Country Zone of WALGA supports Option 5 to retain the current model.**

**Carried 11/1**

**6.6    Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021**

Refer to WALGA Matters for Decision item 5.5.

**6.7    Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act 2007**

Refer to WALGA Matters for Decision item 5.3.

## 7.0 Shire Reports

### 7.1 Shire of Yalgoo



#### Activity Report November 2022

##### **Tourism and Community Events**

The Yalgoo Emu Festival was well received this year with support from Tourism WA, 29 Metals Golden Grove, Horizon and Mt Gibson Shine. The Shire continues to expand the workshops held by our Art Centre and the Caravan Park had another year of significant revenue off the back of Covid-19 travel uncertainty.

##### **Human Resources**

The Shire is currently well staffed with all Shire Housing currently in use. Housing is being expanded to support the WA Country Health Service.

##### **Road and Plant**

The Shire has recently completed delivery of a Road Roller and Forklift however it is still difficult to source utility and other heavy vehicles. Orders have been placed for a Kenworth Prime Mover and Howard Porter trailer combination however it is unlikely that they will be available this financial year.

Since April the Yalgoo lookout and airstrip roads have been sealed and Yalgoo Ninghan Road is now within 15km of having a minimum 4m seal along its 137km length. The Shire is still waiting on DFES EPAR assessments from March 2021 and 2022 to be approved.

##### **Projects**

Through the LRCI Federal Grant Funding the Shire was able to carry out significant patching repairs as well as the introduction of point to point wireless at Shire facilities such as the Art Centre and Yalgoo Caravan Park. The Shire has completed a changeover of financial systems to ITVisions Altus and Synergysoft. Two Modular WA Houses are under construction and will be delivered to the Shire this financial year. The two new rammed earth chalets were well received this wildflower season at the Yalgoo Caravan Park.

Yalgoo Shire is currently moving forward with a number of beautification projects as well as asbestos removal, improved reticulation water and solar.

**Ian Holland**

**Chief Executive Officer**

**Shire of Yalgoo - Where the Outback Starts!**



## 7.2 Shire of Mount Magnet



# WALGA – Murchison Country Zone

## November 2022 Report

### Project Works

The Shire has successfully acquitted LRCIP funding for 2021/22, and begun work on the projects associated with 2022/23. These include the now completed 40m tower to allow fixed wireless distribution to the community, and the Shire Office. Significant improvements have been made in regard to connectivity as a result. Tree loppers have been engaged to reduce some of the leaf burden and allow more homes to connect with line of sight being the main requirement.

Plans are underway for development of the old Golf Course clubhouse and surrounds to be repurposed as an RV Park, designed specifically to attract RV homes to the community. Blocks to the north of the existing Caravan Park have been purchased by the Shire and will be utilised as an extension for smaller vans, tents and campers.

Success has been had with community groups booking the Racecourse during funerals as a location for travellers to camp, with amenities and power available.

The Tender for the conservation and preservation of the 1898 and 1910 School classrooms have been awarded, and work is expected to commence early 2023. Some expansion of the original scope has been made to include the later 1938 classroom in the project.

Tenders have been advertised for the repairs to the old Cinema with LRCIP funding sourced for this project.

Community Consultation around the Sport and Recreation Master plan for the Recreation Precinct will begin in January 2023.

Drainage and Traffic Management plans are being assessed by Main Roads as part of the Light Industrial Area planning, prior to EPA assessment and public comment.

### Roads

Mount Farmer Road resheeting is currently underway through RRG funding. Further gravel resheeting and sealing to the crossovers at the Hill 50 Road were undertaken earlier this year.

Warren St sealing program set to be completed in January through LRCIP funding.

Watson Street drainage works to be undertaken in January.

The Baramaia creek widening will occur shortly on the advice of Dr Hugh Pringle, with a view to reducing the consequence of flash flooding in Watson Street.

## Housing

One Shire house is currently vacant. Government housing continues to be a problem, and foot traffic in the Shire Office seeking both residential and Industrial properties has only slightly abated.

## Staff

Full administration team turnover since March 2022, but all positions now filled with one staff member due to start work in the week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> November. The reliance on consultants to complete statutory work will now be removed and all works completed in house with support only required on an ad hoc basis. This represents a large cost saving.

The 2020/21 Audit is being finalised, along with the 2021/22 Audit, only recently slowed when COVID overtook the administration team.

Town Crew has a full complement with a number of casual staff available to back fill when needed. Parks and Gardens are looking particularly well kept and tended.

Four staff were recently trained in traffic management, and three undertook ARO training for the Airport.

All administrative staff have engaged in WALGA online training regarding Governance and onboarding.

## Governance/Finance

Vigorous debt collection has the Shire with the lowest Rates and Sundry debt burden in a decade prior to the release of this years rates. Legal recourse is being sought in regard to a number of tardy payers. Collection will continue until all avenues are exhausted.

Issues with advertising of the Differential Rates for 2022/23 led to readvertising and an extension of time being required. Rates have received Ministerial approval and have been distributed. GRV Residential properties were revalued for the first time in 7 years, leading to increase of GRV for many properties of 40- 50% and much community consultation was undertaken to explain the rating process as a result.

An application to the Minister to apply GRV rating on two mining camps led to the discovery that Miscellaneous Licenses have not previously been deemed rateable by Landgate. A review of the Valuations Act and the Local Government Act, and negotiation with Landgate, has led to confirmation this was an incorrect determination by Landgate and should only be applied to MLs that are “unoccupied”. The Shire of Mount Magnet are looking to back rate all “occupied” Miscellaneous Licenses in the Shire for the last five years, as allowed under the Local Government Act.

## Tralee Cable

## 7.3 Shire of Murchison



### WALGA - Murchison Country Zone November 2022 Report

#### Community Economic Development

With Mid-West Development Commission Funding concept designs and a business case for a SKA Interpretive Experience Project in Murchison has been finalised by lead consultants UDLA and others. The final draft "*Murchison Vast Sky Experience Business Case*" has been submitted to Council prior to undertaking public consultation. Elements such as an Interpretive Centre, extensions to our Caravan Park, provision of glamping accommodation. It is a significant regionally focussed economic project.

Overall aim is to integrate elements such as star gazing, local Wadjarri art and culture, pastoral heritage and discovery walking trails. Stage 1 spend is around \$10.4m with further stages foreshadowed totalling \$11.5m over around a 10-year period. Business Case shows a profitable operation after 2 years. Significant levels of external funding will be required.



This comes on the back of Preliminary Masterplan works including an SKA Space themed playground, Swimming Pool and Splashpad, Community Centre and Museum Improvements plus improved Roadhouse operations, funding for which Council is separately pursuing.





Through funding support from Lottery West and others work is well underway in preparing for the inaugural "Ancient Land Under Brilliant Skies Festival" on 15-16 April 2023

Meanwhile our Council managed Roadhouse and Caravan Park operations continues to work well with positive reviews.



## Staffing

Staff recruitment is always a challenge due to our location but also due to skill shortages. Earlier in the year in order the best option was to obtain a skilled Finance Manager through an outsourced arrangement with RSM in Geraldton. This followed extensive advertising for a staff position without much success. The Shire also replaced two plant operators and was also fortunate as part of a process to also pick up a partner to one of the appointees to replace our Depot Officer. Both have settled in well. Currently we are recruiting for a replacement Finance Officer who has recently moved to another local government. Need to provide staff accommodation is also an issue and this year we are looking to new accommodation units for Roadhouse Staff.

## Works

### Roads

By the time this report is lodged we will have completed sealing to 7.2m width of the remaining 9.0km gravel section on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road between the Murchison Settlement and our Shire boundary. This will mean Council has constructed and sealed 37km since 2021

Meanwhile Council continues to work with the City of Greater Geraldton in an attempt to get them to complete the remaining 27km section within their City. With Mid-West Development Commission Funding assistance, a business case for upgrading this is soon to be finalised.





### **SKA Route**

Council has entered into an Agreement with Main Roads WA to construct and maintain various local roads within the Shire to cater for construction traffic associated with the SKA Project which is located on Boolardy Station.

### **Flood Damage**

Approval from DRWFA for two flood events from 2021 have finally been received with works commencing. Approval for a March 2022 event is still being assessed.



### **Murchison Settlement**

Impacts on the building industry through COVID19 has seen Council defer / delay two building projects in 2021/22 due to difficulties in obtaining suitable tradesman and building materials. We have three residential units and one Caravan Park Ablution Block in this year's budget to deliver.

**Bill Boehm**

**Chief Executive Officer**

## 7.4 Shire of Sandstone



### Activity Report

#### General

Another very successful art event with wine and cheese tasting night was held. This year we had a change of venue to the Camp school which proved very successful.

The camp school has also been utilised by groups this year and word is getting out about this venue.



*Motorcycle group that utilised the camp school.*

## **Human Resources**

Council recently appointed a new works supervisor who will commence on the 5<sup>th</sup> December.

Currently advertising for a roller operator.

Looking at various options to attract roads construction workers, council currently pays 45% above award rates, has an attractive bonus scheme as well as free housing and utilities.

## **Tourism**

The Sandstone caravan park and visitors centre once again had a busy tourist season, slightly down on last season but still very busy.

With the closure of the Black Hill Tea rooms, Council recently purchased the Old post office and work is in progress to convert this into the “Post Office Café” it is planned to place memorability in this building and it will become in time an extension of the Visitors Centre.

## **Capital Works.**

Currently drawing up specifications for the provision of three onsite accommodation units at the caravan park and the provision of one staff house.

Council had budgeted for two staff houses; however, we were lucky enough to be able to purchase a home in Sandstone that suited our needs.

Works are progressing on the Queens Jubilee tree planting grant program with some 180 trees to be planted around the bypass. Trees to be planted are all “local” species. This project will be delayed due to the timing of the tree planting; however, all reticulation has been put in place.

## **Roadworks**

Regional Roads Group works have commenced and will be completed by the end of November. R2R works will then be carried out prior to moving on to our own resource’s construction works.

## **Internet Services**

Upgrades to our internet are currently being carried out and will involve migrating from Acti8me to Starlink.

This has been trialled on one of our residences with positive results.

## **Coming Events.**

The Community Christmas party is scheduled for the 17<sup>th</sup> December, and the Christmas Shutdown to commence on the 21<sup>st</sup> December.

## 7.5 Shire of Cue



### November 2022 Report to Cue Parliament

<b>Admin</b>	<p>The Shire engaged Dragonfly Media to capture footage of Cue for our entry into the WALGA Showcase in Pixels competition. The theme for this year's Pixels competition is embracing change. We made a thirty second digital video submission and also collected footage to use in future promotions. The Shire won the digital category for the WALGA Showcase in Pixels competition. The video submission was displayed in Yagan Square in Perth. The Shire have placed a link to the video on the Shire's Facebook page and on the Shire's website.</p> <p>The Local Emergency Management Committee held an Emergo desktop Air crash scenario training exercise, hosted by WACHS on 27 July 2022. The exercise was an excellent way for all emergency services to see what each other does and provide insight on what has to happen in real time with each responding agency. The exercise demonstrated what volunteers and services we have available and the importance of our volunteers in these situations.</p> <p>Cr Les Price and Deputy CEO Glenn Boyes attended the Australian Local Government Association conference held in Canberra on the 19 – 22 June 2022. Cr Price represented the State Council on behalf of WALGA, to present the Railway Crossing Safety Improvements proposal.</p>
<b>Economic Development</b>	<p>Construction of a five-unit development in the Heydon Place Industrial estate, partly funded by a Mid-West Development Commission Regional Economic Development grant, is nearing completion with power still to be completed. Once completed the Shire will advertise for expressions of interest to occupy the premises with an emphasis on providing economic development for the region.</p>
<b>Tourism</b>	<p>Heritage Minister the Honourable David Templeman announced on 18 May 2022 the Little Wilgie Mia Ochre Mine and site has been</p>

	<p>included in the State Register of Heritage Places. The big Wilgie Mia Ochre Mine was added to the State Register of Heritage places in February 2011. This now protects both sites at Wilgie Mia for future generations.</p> <p>The new Tourist Park Managers, Michael and Savannah commenced in their new role on 25 July 2022. They have settled in well with Savannah having excellent knowledge of the RMS booking system from her previous role with the Square Kilometre Array. It was quite a different tourist season to previous years with the tourist park having less returning visitors than usual. This was offset by a higher number of short stay travellers passing through.</p>
<b>Town Developments</b>	<p>The Shire has received confirmation from the National Trust that it has approved the transfer of the Masonic Lodge building back to the Shire of Cue. This allows the Shire to access grant funding and commence restoration works on the building.</p> <p>The Cue refuse site fencing is completed with some gates still to be installed. The Shire has engaged GHD to provide a tip management plan including site survey and rehabilitation plan for the facility.</p> <p>Construction of four staff housing units that will occupy two adjoining lots in the Cue town site are progressing with Modular WA and delivery expected in March 2023. The Shire is constructing two, two bedroom two bathroom units and two, two bedroom, one bathroom units for staff accommodation.</p> <p>Refurbishment of the old railway station building for use as a Youth and Community Centre has been completed and the Shire has recently restarted the Youth program to provide after school activities for the youth.</p> <p>The Abandoned Mines Project is being undertaken by Department of Mines in conjunction with Gee Gie Consulting. To date an aerial survey has been undertaken followed by a ground survey of the area within one kilometre of the school to assess open mine shafts for rehabilitation.</p>
<b>Works</b>	<p>Westgold Resources are still constructing a bypass road from the Miners Pass Road and then East of Cue to link with Wondinong Road. Works have been slowed with Westgold experiencing problems with contractors and wet weather events. Part of these works includes modifying and improving the intersections on Great Northern Highway and Airport Road with sealing works now underway and an asphalt seal to be completed in mid-December.</p>



	<p>The Shire roads are still awaiting repairs following damage caused by a rain event in late March. The Shire has submitted our preliminary notification to DFES and Greenfields have undertaken an inspection of our roads and a cost estimate has been submitted to DFES. We are still awaiting the outcome of the submission.</p>
Community Events	<p>6. Astrotourism WA were in Cue on Friday 19 August 2022 to celebrate the Square Kilometre Array on behalf of the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research, with support from the Australian Government Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources. The event was held to celebrate Australia as one of the hosts of the world's largest and most capable radio telescopes. The SKA telescopes will revolutionize our understanding of the Universe and be based in Western Australia and South Africa. The night was a family friendly, community stargazing event where we learnt about the universe, stars, black holes and spaghettification. A number of telescopes were set up for viewing the stars and planets, while a sausage sizzle was provided by the Shire of Cue. The hosts provided a telescope that was given away as a prize on the night and won by our local sergeant.</p> <p>Halloween was a fun filled evening of costumes, art and craft activities, food and refreshments thanks to the great work of the Shire staff and grant funding provided by Healthway, Lotterywest and the Department of Communities through Meerilinga. Around 25 kids and 25 kids at heart attended the newly repurposed Railway building for the afternoon and evening on Friday 28 October, and enjoyed a range of activities from slip and slide on the oval to games and hidden surprises. This was followed by a bbq to finish off the evening. The Shire staff did an excellent job with organising and running the event.</p> <p>The official opening of the Railway building as the new Youth and Community Centre was held on Saturday 29 October. Around 50 people attended the event which was organised in conjunction with the Cuerosity Shoppe. Attendees were encouraged to buy an outfit from the Cuerosity Shoppe and wear it for the event. There was an interesting assortment of outfits worn on the night and prizes were given for a variety of categories. Live music was provided by Gus McKay playing a variety of blues and the Shire provided a bbq dinner. Shire President Ross Pigdon provided some history on the Railway industry that was once prominent in Cue.</p>

## 7.6 Shire of Meekatharra



### WALGA Murchison Zone Meeting; November 2021

#### Activities Report - Shire of Meekatharra

#### **Major Projects**

**Meekatharra District Hospital** – planning has commenced for the new Meekatharra Hospital with several community consultations having been held to date. These have included regular attendance by the appointed consultants to the Meekatharra Aboriginal Reference Group (MARG), the Meekatharra Agency Leadership Group (MALG), Council staff and the general community. The planning process is expected to be completed in early 2023 and tendering for the building process is scheduled for mid 2023.

**Mining Activities** – Road User Agreement for Abra Mining on the Ashburton Downs Road completed. Road User Agreements for Newcam Minerals on the Landor Meekatharra Road (from Mt Gould to Gt Nth Hwy) in progress as well as Road User Agreements with Technology Minerals (KOP Ventures) and Australian Vanadium Limited (AVL) located at Gabanintha in progress.

**Meekatharra Airport Upgrade** – Council recently submitted an application under the Regional Airports Development Scheme (RADS) for funding towards the proposed pavement works project for the airport's runway, apron and taxiway. It is expected that the project will be scheduled for mid to late 2023 given the timing of the RADS funding announcement and weather conditions being suitable for the bitumen works. Some cracked sealing maintenance works will be undertaken at the end of this year or early 2023.

#### **Human Resources**

Council has recruited and filled several positions in the organization since April 2022. These have included:

- Roads Administration Supervisor – commenced July 2022.
- Regional Roads Supervisor – internal recruitment to replace external consultant – commenced July 2022.
- Customer Services Officer – commenced August 2022
- Assistant Finance Officer – commenced September 2022.
- Plant Operator(s) – external recruitment – commenced May 2022, and
- currently recruiting for a Finance Officer.

#### **Land/Buildings**

Council recently purchased additional housing and land in Meekatharra that will be utilized for staff housing. Major refurbishment of several Council current staff housing is underway and the demolition of 2 x Council houses has been completed that will provide vacant Council owned land for the building of new staff housing. Council recently sold its 3 x single units to Yulella Aboriginal Corporation that will be utilised by Yulella for contractor accommodation.



## Road Construction & Equipment

**Landor Meekatharra Road** – further sealing of the Landor Meekatharra Road has continued with approximately 10kms being prepared and scheduled for sealing by the end of this year.

**Goldfields Highway (Meekatharra Wiluna Road)** – note separate agenda Motion seeking WALGA Murchison Zone's support for the sealing of the Meekatharra Wiluna Road.

**Maintenance Program** - Ashburton Downs, Turee Creek, Mingah Springs/Three Rivers, Wiluna North, Sandstone Roads general maintenance with floodway maintenance at Ashburton Downs and Yarlaweelor Access Roads, and Pigandy Creek crossings.

**Plant & Equipment** – disposal of plant has continued with the final round of plant disposal being conducted by Smith Broughton Auctioneers the week beginning 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2022. The auction will be at Councils Works Depot as well as online. Council has purchased several works light vehicles and a new Bore Boss in accordance with the 2022/23 budget allocation.

## Governance/Admin/Finance

**Elections** – Newly appointed Councillor Maurice Anderson sworn in at the May 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting (OCM) in accordance with section 4.57 (3) of the Local Government Act 1995.

**Local Laws** – Council gazetted two new local laws in August 2022 being the Health Local Law 2021 and the Local Government Property and Public Places Local Law 2021.

**Finance** - The Shire of Meekatharra 2022/23 budget was adopted in July 2022 and many budget projects are well underway. Councils final audit for the 2021/22 year was completed in mid October 2022.

## Community Activities

**Outback Festival 2022 and Meekatharra Races** – This year's Meeka Festival and Races held over the long weekend were very successful with an increase in total numbers over all events compared to last year. The Landor races held on the weekend following the Meekatharra races was also well attended even though the weather was inclement.

**Cemeteries Management Plan** – Council has commenced its Cemeteries Management Plan process with the appointment of Heritage Consultant, Ms Helene Bartleson. Her first site visit to all closed historic cemeteries and the town cemetery was in the week 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> of September that included field trips, meeting with local community members and addressing Councils 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 meeting.

**Town Mural Wall** – the town community mural project was completed in June this year (below) by artist Helen Ansel who resides in Mullewa and spent part of her childhood in Meekatharra.



## 8.0 Presentations

Di Franklin – WA Country Health Service – Murchison Service Planning Project.  
 Margi Weir – Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance.  
 Nils Hay – Midwest Development Commission Activities and Geotourism

## 9.0 Emerging Issues as Notified/Permitted by the President

No issues arising

## 10.0 Next Meeting

With the May 2022 State Council meeting being scheduled on Wednesday 3 May 2023, WALGA has nominated a suggested dates between Thursday 13 April to Monday 24 April for the zone meeting. As there are two possibilities for meeting dates, there will be two options presented for consideration.

### **Recommendation –**

That the next meeting of the Murchison Country Zone be held in Cue on:

Option 1  
 Friday 14 April 2023;

Or

Option 2  
 Friday 21 April 2023.

**RESOLUTION - Moved: Cr Nicholls    Seconded: Cr Valenzuela**

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**That the next meeting of the Murchison Country Zone be held in Cue on Friday 14 April 2023.**

**Carried**

**11.0 Meeting Closure**

**There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 2:11pm.**

I certify these are the true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Murchison Country Zone of WALGA held 18 November 2022.

**Cr Ross Foulkes-Taylor  
14 April 2023**