

# Northern Country Zone Minutes

**26 NOVEMBER 2018**  
**Flying Minute Meeting**



# Northern Country Zone (NCZ)

## MINUTES 26/11/2018

### MEMBERS PARTICIPATING

Shire of Carnamah	Cr Merle Isbister Ms Karen Oborn, Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate
Shire of Chapman Valley	Cr Anthony Farrell Mr Maurice Battilana, Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate
Shire of Coorow	Cr Moira Girando Mr Peter Crispin, Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate
Shire of Irwin	Cr Ian West Cr Michael Smith Mr Shane Ivers, Acting Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate
Shire of Mingenew	Cr Helen Newton Mr Nils Hay, Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate
Shire of Morawa	Cr Karen Chappel Mr Chris Linnell, Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate
Shire of Northampton	Cr Craig Simkin Mr Garry Keeffe, Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate
Shire of Perenjori	Cr Laurie Butler Mr Steven Tindale, Acting Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate
Shire of Three Springs	Cr Chris Lane Ms Sylvia Yandle, Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate

### MEMBERS NOT PARTICIPATING

City of Greater Geraldton	Mayor Shane Van Styn Mr Ross McKim, Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zone Delegates are requested to provide written notice on amendments to recommendations within the State Council agenda ASAP to the Zone Chair and Secretariat, to allow Zone members time to vote on the alternative recommendation.

## ATTACHMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Item 2: Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held 27 August 2018

Items 5/6 State Council Agenda

Item 7.2 Zone Status Report

Item 8.2 Draft Submission on the WA Country Health Services' New Strategy to Strengthen WA's Country Ambulance Services

Item 8.3 Correspondence from Rural Water Council of WA Inc Executive Officer, Robert Dew

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### 1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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Pursuant to our Code of Conduct, Councillors must declare to the Chairman any potential conflict of interest they have in a matter before the Zone as soon as they become aware of it. Councillors and deputies may be directly or indirectly associated with some recommendations of the Zone and State Council. If you are affected by these recommendations, please excuse yourself from the meeting and do not participate in deliberations.

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### 2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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#### **Recommendation:**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 27 August 2018 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

#### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Craig Simkin

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 27 August 2018 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

**Carried 9/0**

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### 3. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR / STATE COUNCILLOR – NOVEMBER 2018

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Northern Country Zone  
Presidents Report November 2018

The State Council visit to Dongara was a great success. Thank you to every Shire President, Elected Member and CEO who came along and promoted their Local Government. I have had such positive feedback, it seems we have set the benchmark for regional State Council Meetings and forums. A huge thank you goes to the Shire of Irwin for hosting the event.

The Local Govt Act review forums organised by the Department of Local Govt are continuing. WALGA has sent out feedback forms to all CEO for submissions to come into WALGA re this review, it is planned to have a statewide forum in late January/ February. Please keep an eye out for this.

The Country Ambulance Strategy is very important to all our communities, thank you to Cr Isbister and all other contributors to this NCZ submission.

As you would be aware our long time very valed CEO Ricky Burges is leaving WALGA in February. I am sure our Zone will be strongly represented at the CEO farewell Monday week.

As a State Councillor and a Member of the WALGA Executive it has been a busy time and will continue to be so with the recruitment process for a new CEO. I will be attending a LG Act Review Working Group, Local Government House Trust, WALGA Executive and State Advisory Committee to Local Govt Transport meeting next week so if please contact me if you have any matters you wish me to bring to the table.

Many of you should have received a letter from the President of ALGA re the Drought Reform policy group and the considerations for LG in drought declared areas. I have asked the Cr Craigie, Mayor Roberts and the CEO as ALGA Board Members to advise the President of ALGA that it is important that WA is also consulted in developing any policy not just the Eastern States. CEO Burges has assured me that will happen.

Can I welcome Dianne Daniels as our Executive Officer and thank her for jumping right in and handling the Country Ambulance Strategy.

I hope all our communities have a kind and caring festive season and that everyone stays safe.

See you all at the February meeting.

Karen Chappel.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Craig Simkin

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the report from the Chair/State Councillor for November 2018.

**Carried 9/0**

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## **4. FINANCE**

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### **4.1 Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 31 October 2018**

*Author: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer*

*Attachments: Nil*

**Recommendation:**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 October 2018.

**Comments:**

The Detailed Income Statement shown below represents the cash position of NCZ at 31 October 2018, as reconciled to the Bank Statement.

Please note that electronic payments commenced in October 2018, rather than making payments by cheque. Two signatories are required for all payments - Maurice Battilano has been the second signatory on the transfers shown on the Income and Expenditure Statement.

<b>NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA</b>				
<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT</b>				
<i>For the period ending 31 October 2018</i>				
	<i>Date</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Description</i>
Reconciled Balance B/F	01-07-18		32,567.21	
Deposits			350.00	Attendance at State Council Dinner x 10
			3,400.00	2017-18 subscription x 2
			3,036.00	\$3036 paid in error - refunded (for WALGA)
Bank Interest Received			0.79	
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>			<b>39,354.00</b>	
Payments Made	01-08-18		-2,478.60	Chq 370 - Jenni Law EO services 1 May - 30 June 2018
	07-08-18		-363.00	Chq 372 - Reimburse Shire of Mingenew for Catering NCZ meeting 25/06/2018
	12-10-18		-3,248.00	Internet tsf - Jenni Law EO services 1 July - 30 September 2018
	12-10-18		-300.00	Internet tsf - Reimburse Shire of Mingenew for catering NCZ meeting 27/08/2018
	25-10-18		-592.00	Internet tsf - Dagleish Catering morning tea for 40 at LGA review forum 22/10/2018
	31-10-18		-275.00	Internet tsf - North Midlands Accounting Service - 2017-18 Audit
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE</b>			<b>-7,256.60</b>	
<b>Closing Cash Balance</b>	<b>31-10-18</b>		<b>32,097.40</b>	
<b>NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA</b>				
<b>BANK RECONCILIATION SUMMARY</b>				
<i>For the period ending 31 October 2018</i>				
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-18		32,822.20	
Deposits and Credits			6,786.79	01/07/2018 to 31/10/2018
Cheques and Payments			-7,511.59	01/07/2018 to 31/10/2018
<b>Total Cleared Transactions</b>			<b>32,097.40</b>	
Bank Statement	31-10-18		32,097.40	
Less O/S chq 369				
<b>Reconciled Balance</b>	<b>31-10-18</b>		<b>32,097.40</b>	
<b>Difference I&amp;E to Bank Statement</b>			<b>0.00</b>	

## Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Anthony Farrell

Seconded: Craig Simkin

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 October 2018.

Carried 9/0

## 4.2 Audit Report 2017-2018

Author: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

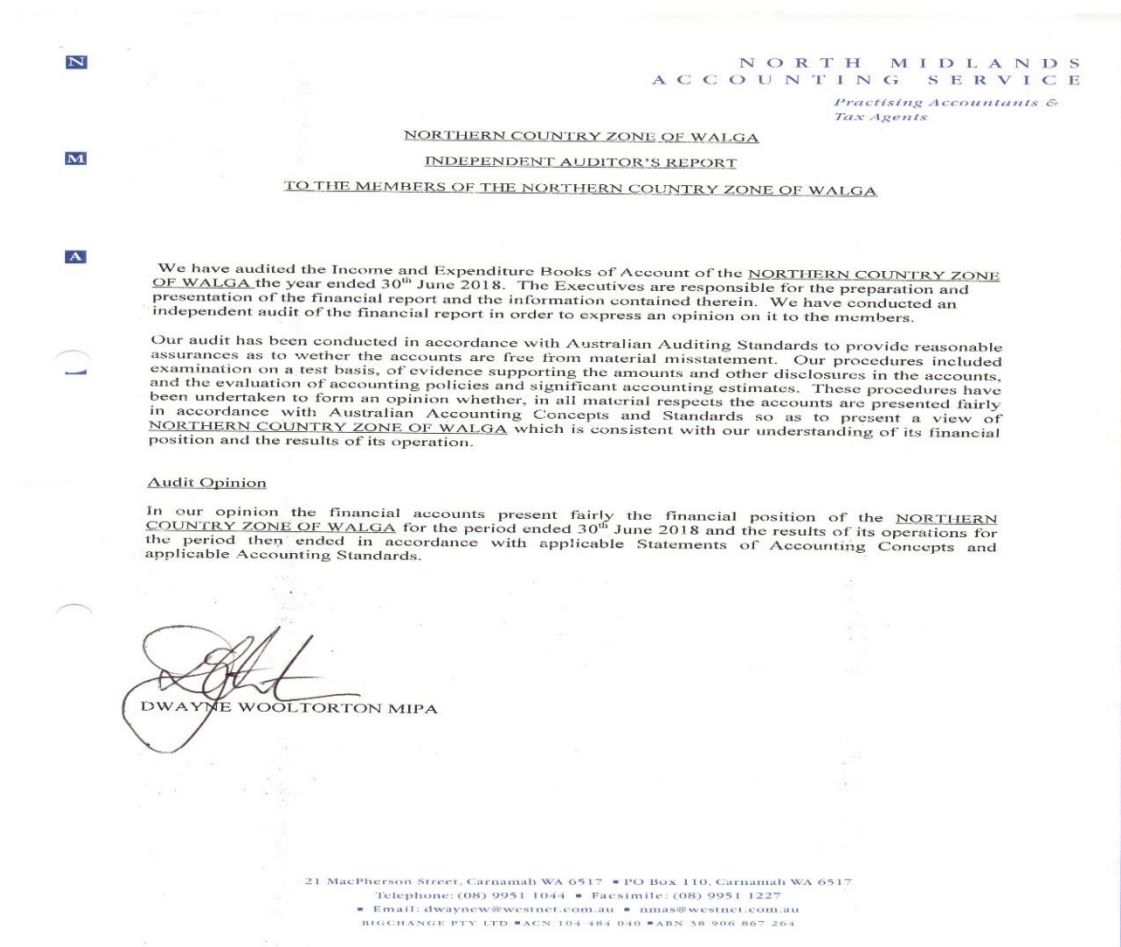
### Recommendation:

That the Audit Report for the Northern Country Zone of WALGA for the period ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018 be received.

### Comments:

As has happened historically, the 2017-2018 financial accounts for the NCZ have been audited by Dwayne Woollorton of North Midlands Accounting Services.

In the opinion of the Auditor, the accounts present fairly the financial position of the NCZ for the financial year ending 30 June 2018. There were no qualifications.



**NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA**  
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**  
*For the period ending 30 June 2018*

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Description</i>
Opening Balance	01-07-17		29,812.10	
Payments Received			13,600.00	Subscriptions 8 x \$1,700
Bank Interest Received			3.59	
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>			<b><u>43,415.69</u></b>	
Payments Made	12-08-17	359	-425.00	City of Greater Geraldton - reimburse catering
	12-08-17	360	-275.00	North Midlands Accounting Service - 16/17 Audit Fees
	05-09-07	361	-2,387.66	Barrye Thompson - Jul/Aug 2017 Exec Officer Services
		362		Cancelled
	24-01-18	363	-2,708.33	Sue Thompson for BR Thompson - Final EO payment
	24-01-18	364	-467.50	Shire of Mingenew - reimburse catering
		365		Cancelled
		366		Cancelled
	12-03-18	367	-2,165.00	Jenni Law - Exec Officer Services Jan/Feb 2018
	24-05-18	368	-2,165.00	Jenni Law - Exec Officer Services Mar/Apr 2018
	25-06-18	369	-254.99	Shire of Mingenew - reimb for Zone meeting 26/02/2018
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE</b>			<b><u>-10,848.48</u></b>	
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>30-06-18</b>		<b><u><u>32,567.21</u></u></b>	

**NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA**  
**BANK RECONCILIATION SUMMARY**  
*As at 30 June 2018*

Cash at Bank	01-07-17	29,812.10	
Deposits and Credits		13,603.59	01/07/2017 to 30/06/2018
Cheques and Payments		-10,848.48	01/07/2017 to 30/06/2018
<b>Total Cleared Transactions</b>		<b><u>32,567.21</u></b>	
Bank Statement	30-06-18	32,822.20	
Less O/S chq 369		-254.99	
<b>Reconciliation</b>	<b>30-06-18</b>	<b><u>32,567.21</u></b>	





**NAB Business  
Cheque Account**

05 JUL 2018

For further information call 13 22 65 for Personal  
Accounts or 13 10 12 for Business Accounts.

053/013063

THE SECRETARY  
NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF THE WALGA  
PMB 21  
DONGARA WA 6525

**Account Balance Summary**

Opening balance	\$34,986.34	Cr
Total credits	\$0.86	
Total debits	\$2,165.00	
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>\$32,822.20</b>	<b>Cr</b>

**Statement starts 1 June 2018**  
**Statement ends 29 June 2018**

**Outlet Details**

Dongara  
31 Moreton Terrace, Dongara WA 6525

**Account Details**

NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF THE WALGA  
BSB number 086-833  
Account number 21-924-6179

**Transaction Details**

Date	Particulars	Debits	Credits	Balance
1 Jun 2018	Brought forward			34,986.34 Cr
12 Jun 2018	000368.....	2,165.00		32,821.34 Cr
29 Jun 2018	Interest.....		0.86	32,822.20 Cr

**Summary of Government Charges**

	From 1 July to date	Last year to 30 June
<b>Government</b>		
Withholding tax	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bank Account Debit (BAD) tax	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bank Accounts Debits (BAD) Tax or State Debits Duty has been abolished for all states & territories effective 1/7/2005. Any amount shown on this statement applies to debits processed on or before 30/06/2005.		
For further information on any applicable rebates, fees or government charges, please refer to the NAB's "A Guide to Fees & Charges" booklet. Please retain this statement for taxation purposes		

**Explanatory Notes**

Please check all entries and report any apparent error or possible unauthorised transaction immediately.  
We may subsequently adjust debits and credits, which may result in a change to your account balance to accurately reflect the obligations between us.  
For information on resolving problems or disputes, contact us on 1800 152 015, or ask at any NAB branch.

Statement number 243

National Australia Bank Limited ABN 12 004 044 937 AFSL and Australian Credit Licence 230686

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07 AUG 2018

**NAB Business  
Cheque Account**For further information call 13 22 65 for Personal  
Accounts or 13 10 12 for Business Accounts.

053/005334

THE SECRETARY  
NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF THE WALGA  
PMB 21  
DONGARA WA 6525**Account Balance Summary**

Opening balance	\$32,822.20	Cr
Total credits	\$0.00	
Total debits	\$0.00	
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>\$32,822.20</b>	<b>Cr</b>

**Statement starts 30 June 2018**  
**Statement ends 31 July 2018****Outlet Details**Dongara  
31 Moreton Terrace, Dongara WA 6525**Account Details**NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF THE WALGA  
BSB number 086-833  
Account number 21-924-6179**Transaction Details**

Date	Particulars	Debits	Credits	Balance
30 Jun 2018	Brought forward			32,822.20 Cr
2 Jul 2018	*****			
	The Following Information Concerning This Account Is Provided To Assist In Preparing Your 2017/18 Tax Return			
	Credit Interest Paid - 2017/18 Financial Year	3.59		
	Resident Withholding Tax - 2017/18 Financial Year	0.00		
	If You Have Any Queries, Please Call The Account Enquiries Number On The Top Of This Statement.			
	*****			
				32,822.20 Cr

**Summary of Government Charges**

	From 1 July to date	Last year to 30 June
<b>Government</b>		
Withholding tax	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bank Account Debit (BAD) tax	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bank Accounts Debits (BAD) Tax or State Debits Duty has been abolished for all states & territories effective 1/7/2005. Any amount shown on this statement applies to debits processed on or before 30/06/2005.		
For further information on any applicable rebates, fees or government charges, please refer to the NAB's "A Guide to Fees & Charges" booklet. Please retain this statement for taxation purposes		

**Explanatory Notes**

Please check all entries and report any apparent error or possible  
unauthorised transaction immediately.  
We may subsequently adjust debits and credits, which may result  
in a change to your account balance to accurately reflect the  
obligations between us.  
For information on resolving problems or disputes, contact us on  
1800 152 015, or ask at any NAB branch.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:****Moved:** Anthony Farrell**Seconded:** Craig Simkin

That the Audit Report for the Northern Country Zone of WALGA for the period ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018 be received.

**Carried 9/0****4.3 Fees 2018-2019**

*Author: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer*

*Attachments: Nil*

**Recommendation:**

That the Member Council subscription for 2018-2019 remains at \$1,700.00 per annum per local government.

**Comment:**

The fee per member has been held steady at \$1,700 for several years and this seems to be a reasonable figure to ensure that meetings are well catered for, that the Executive Officer receives fair compensation and also to leave a pool of funds for such things as the (historically) biennial Zone Forum and in the near future, to progress a regional tourism strategy.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:****Moved:** Anthony Farrell**Seconded:** Craig Simkin

That the Member Council subscription for 2018-2019 remains at \$1,700.00 per annum per local government.

**Carried 9/0****4.4 Northern Country Zone Domain Name and Mail Box**

*Author: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer*

*Attachments: Nil*

**Recommendation:**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA pays a biennial fee (currently \$96) to 2V.NET IT for the Domain name 'northerncountryzone.com.au'; and

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA pays a monthly fee (currently \$7) to 2V.NET.IT for hosting the mailbox 'eo@northerncountryzone.com.au'.

**Comments:**

Historically, the email business of the Northern Country Zone has been conducted using the private email address of the Executive Officer at any given point in time. This means that Zone business has been saved in various personal email caches and is not available to successive Executive Officers. In order to promote seamless succession of Executive Officers, it would be beneficial for the Zone to have a Domain name and mail box.

The Domain 'northerncountryzone.com.au' is currently available and an email address such as [eo@northerncountryzone.com.au](mailto:eo@northerncountryzone.com.au) could be established.

The current cost of the Domain name, hosted by 2V.NET IT/Microsoft Office 365 is \$96 for two years and the mail box is \$7 per month. Microsoft Office 365 offers solid virus protection and 50gb storage.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Craig Simkin

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA pays a biennial fee (currently \$96) to 2V.NET IT for the Domain name 'notherncountryzone.com.au'; and

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA pays a monthly fee (currently \$7) to 2V.NET.IT for hosting the mailbox 'eo@notherncountryzone.com.au'.

**Carried 9/0**

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**5. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION**

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*The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 5 December 2018.*

*The recommendation and summary only have been included. Please refer to the PDF version of the State Council Agenda for more detail and attachments.*

**5.1 Proposed Removal by Main Roads WA of the “Letter of Approval” Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition (05-006-03-0001 MB)**

*By Mark Bondietti, Policy Manager Transport and Roads*

**Recommendation:**

That WALGA:

1. Opposes withdrawal of the “Letter of Approval” Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition until an acceptable alternative is developed;
2. Supports the position that Local Governments not use provision of the Letter of Authority to charge transport operators to access the Restricted Access Vehicle network;
3. Supports the development of standard administrative procedures including fees and letter formats; and
4. Supports the practice of Local Governments negotiating maintenance agreements with freight owners/generators in cases where the operations are predicted to cause extraordinary road damage.

**In Brief:**

- Current Main Roads policy allows Local Governments to request that Main Roads WA impose a condition on some or all roads included in the Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV) or Accredited Mass Management Scheme (AMMS) networks to require that Restricted Access Vehicle operators obtain and carry a current letter of approval from the Local Government (CA07 condition) when using those roads.
- Main Roads advised WALGA that advice they have received from the State Solicitor’s Office concludes the practice of some Local Governments in charging transport operators (e.g. transport company or truck

owner) a fee for the letter of approval is likely unlawful and they are intending to abolish the CA07 condition.

- WALGA has engaged affected Local Governments to understand current practices and assess the consequences of withdrawing the CA07 condition.
- Seventy Local Governments were surveyed and the overwhelming majority consider the CA07 condition an essential management tool and oppose its removal.
- The CA07 condition assists Local Governments to manage the quantity and timing of RAV movements without compromising the safety of other vehicle users.
- Most Local Governments do not charge transport operators a fee for the letter of approval.
- The CA07 condition alerts Local Governments to transport tasks that are likely to cause extraordinary road damage and provides an opportunity to negotiate a maintenance agreement with the freight owner/generator (e.g. mining company, timber company). Abolishing the condition may jeopardise current and future agreements.
- It is concluded that the concerns raised can be resolved by Main Roads WA informing Local Governments that it is unlawful to charge transport operators for the CA07 letter of approval and by standardising administrative procedures.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Craig Simkin

That WALGA:

1. Opposes withdrawal of the “Letter of Approval” Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition until an acceptable alternative is developed;
2. Supports the position that Local Governments not use provision of the Letter of Authority to charge transport operators to access the Restricted Access Vehicle network;
3. Supports the development of standard administrative procedures including fees and letter formats; and
4. Supports the practice of Local Governments negotiating maintenance agreements with freight owners/ generators in cases where the operations are predicted to cause extraordinary road damage.

**Carried 9/0**

**5.2 Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement 2018/19-2022/23 (05-001-03-0037 MM)**

*By Marissa MacDonald, Policy Officer – Transport and Roads*

**Recommendation:**

That the Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement be endorsed.

### **In Brief:**

- The Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement was introduced in 2015 to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Public Transport Authority (PTA) and Local Governments in the provision and maintenance of bus stop infrastructure.
- The Agreement defines the communication and consultation process between the PTA and Local Governments to be applied in different situations including when bus routes are changed, bus stops are added or removed, and bus stop infrastructure is upgraded.
- The initial three year Agreement expired on 30 June 2018. Feedback received indicates that the agreement has been successful in assisting Local Governments and their communities.
- A new Agreement until June 2023 has been proposed with minor amendments to the existing Agreement.
- The Agreement applies to all Local Governments with SmartRider ticketed regular public transport services.
- The proposed new Agreement introduces a funding cap to the Bus Shelter Subsidy Program (BSSP) of \$7,000 per shelter. The rationale for the funding cap per shelter is to improve equity in the distribution of BSSP funding between Local Governments and maximize the impact of the funding available in improving the quality of the public transport experience.

#### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Craig Simkin

That the Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement be endorsed.

**Carried 9/0**

### **5.3 2019-20 State Budget Submission (05-001-03-0006 DM)**

*By Dana Mason, Policy Manager Economics*

#### **Recommendation:**

That WALGA's submission to the State Government in advance of the 2019-20 Budget be endorsed.

### **In Brief:**

- Each year, WALGA prepares a submission to the State Government outlining the sectors' priorities for the upcoming budget.
- Although the State's financial position has improved slightly since then, there remains significant constraints on the State Budget and the Government is still focussed on fiscal repair in order to pay down the record levels of debt that have accumulated in recent years.
- In this context, WALGA's 2019-20 State Budget Submission encourages the State Government to focus on economic growth and development as a way of addressing the state's budget challenges and delivering priority services and infrastructure for the community. The submission identifies a number of priority areas for spending and microeconomic reform that are needed from the sector's perspective to set WA on a path for future prosperity and deliver on important community needs.
- In developing the submission, WALGA has sought feedback from members and the State Council.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Craig Simkin

That WALGA's submission to the State government in advance of the 2019-20 Budget be endorsed.

**Carried 9/0**

**5.4 Interim Submission: Cost Recovery for Clearing Permits and Water Licences and Permits – DWER Discussion Paper (05-064-02-0022 MB)**

*By Mark Batty, Executive Manager Environment and Waste*

**Recommendation:**

That the WALGA interim submission which opposes increased cost recovery for clearing permits and water licences and permits by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation be endorsed.

**In Brief :**

- The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) has released a discussion paper proposing increased fees and charges via a cost recovery approach to assessing both clearing permits (under the *Environmental Protection Clearing of Native Vegetation Regulations (2004)*), and water licenses and permit applications (under the *Rights in Water Irrigation Act (1914)*).
- The Discussion Paper proposes significant increases in application fees for permits to clear native vegetation and for water licenses, which will have financial and program implications for Local Governments.
- Cost increases are exponential to the base rate of existing fees and charges.
- The increase costs will particularly impact on local governments undertaking road maintenance activities or seeking additional access to water supplies.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Craig Simkin

That the WALGA Interim Submission which opposes increased cost recovery for clearing permits and water licenses and permits by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation be endorsed.

**Carried 9/0**

**5.5 Waste Levy Policy Statement (05-037-04-0001 RNB)**

*By Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Recycling*

**Recommendation:**

That the Waste Levy Policy Statement 2018 be endorsed.

**In Brief :**

- The Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) undertook a review and developed a Discussion Paper on the WALGA Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Policy Statement, highlighting areas to consider amending the Policy Statement.

- Using the Discussion Paper, WALGA then consulted Local Governments regarding their views on these issues.
- Written responses were received from 34 Local Governments. MWAC considered the responses from Local Government and made amendments to the Policy Statement accordingly. Feedback was also provided to those Local Governments that had commented on how their position had been incorporated.
- The Waste Levy Policy Statement being put forward for consideration by State Council includes the following amendments:
  1. Rationale for the Levy – additional commentary added to emphasize the need to expend Levy funds in a timely manner.
  2. Differential Levies – this section was removed to reflect that the Levy is not applied differentially to inert or putrescible waste, as was previously the case.
  3. Basis for Setting Levy rates – an additional point was included to indicate Local Government support for, at least, a five year rolling schedule for the Levy to facilitate orderly long term budgetary and infrastructure planning by Local Government.
  4. Administration of the Levy – this section was removed in recognition of the need to undertake further consideration of the role of the Waste Authority, in the context of the review of the Waste Legislation Policy Statement.
  5. Funding Scope – a new section was added to the Policy Statement which identifies that Local Government expects State Government funding programs that support waste management activities to:
    - Provide adequate funding and support for Regional Councils, non-metropolitan and metropolitan Local Governments
    - Reflect the targets and priorities within the State Waste Strategy
    - Fully fund and acknowledge the life-cycle costs of infrastructure and services
    - Facilitate the development and implementation of Product Stewardship Schemes.
  6. Regulation of the Levy – a new section was added to emphasize that without effective regulation, the Levy's ability to raise funds and act as an economic instrument to reduce waste to landfill was negated.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Craig Simkin

That the Waste Levy Policy Statement 2018 be endorsed.

**Carried 9/0**

**5.6 Standard Development Conditions Guidelines (05-036-04-0005 AR)**

*By Ashley Robb, Project Officer, Planning and Improvement*

**Recommendation:**

That the *Standard Development Conditions Guideline*, be endorsed and that WALGA recommends use of the resource by Local Governments when reviewing and/or preparing standard development conditions.



### **In Brief:**

- The application of development conditions on new development approvals has been identified by Local Governments as a planning process which offers scope for improvement.
- WALGA has prepared this Guideline to: provide a list of standard development conditions that can be considered and used by Local Governments when reviewing their own standard conditions; provide guidance on the preparation of development conditions; and, help improve consistency in the way that development conditions are worded, structured and applied across jurisdictions.
- The Guideline provides a set of 67 development conditions, covering 25 different planning matters. Importantly, the conditions in the Guideline have been reviewed by certified legal practitioners who have experience in dealing with planning related matters, using current case law.

The Guideline provides an important reference document that Local Governments can have confidence in, when reviewing their own set of standard conditions and formulating conditions through-out the development assessment process.

#### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Craig Simkin

That the *Standard Development Conditions Guideline* be endorsed and that WALGA recommends use of the resource by Local Governments when reviewing and/or preparing standard development conditions.

**Carried 9/0**

### **5.7 WALGA Paper – Off Road Vehicles and Local Government (05-053-03-008 EDR)**

*By Evie Devitt-Rix, Senior Policy Advisor, Community*

#### **Recommendation:**

That WALGA advocates for the State Government to:

1. Conduct a review of current legislation to align registration and licensing of Off Road Vehicles (ORVs) with other vehicle types and users.
2. Allocate funding for feasibility studies to identify suitable sites for new ORV Permitted Areas throughout the State, which considers environmental values, future land use planning impacts, public safety, amenity and environmental issues and Local Government risk and liability issues.
3. Develop and implement, in collaboration with WALGA and ORV stakeholders, educational resources and training suitable to the specific needs of ORV users, stakeholders and Local Governments. Resources should include; guidance on compliance and enforcement arrangements aligned with the *Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act 1978* and other relevant legislation, user and permitted area operational safety, signage standards, insurance and liability mitigation strategies.
4. Develop and implement, in collaboration with ORV vendors, resources and practices that ensure ORV buyers are informed at the point of sale about ORV registration, regulation and restrictions applicable to ORV vehicle use and consequences of non-compliance.

5. Consider and consult on the regulation of the vendor's role in providing information to buyers regarding ORV registration, regulation and restrictions.
6. Develop and implement, in collaboration with stakeholders and industry representatives, resources to educate and raise community awareness about the proper use of ORVs, ORV permitted and prohibited areas, and the consequences of non-compliance.
7. Ensure that the WA Police Force allocates resources to address unlawful ORV use in consultation with Local Government law enforcement.

### **In Brief:**

- Off-road vehicle (ORV) use has been an issue for Local Governments for decades.
- In response to ongoing member concern, WALGA has developed an 'Off-road Vehicles discussion paper', which was been distributed for sector comment in early September 2018.
- The paper received comment from five individual Local Government, and the South West Group which represents six Local Governments in southern areas of Perth. Comments indicate broad support for the majority of recommendations.

### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Craig Simkin

That WALGA advocates for the State Government to:

1. Conduct a review of current legislation to align registration and licensing of Off Road Vehicles (ORVs) with other vehicle types and users.
2. Allocate funding for feasibility studies to identify suitable sites for new ORV Permitted Areas throughout the State, which considers environmental values, future land use planning impacts, public safety, amenity and environmental issues and Local Government risk and liability issues.
3. Develop and implement, in collaboration with WALGA and ORV stakeholders, educational resources and training suitable to the specific needs of ORV users, stakeholders and Local Governments. Resources should include; guidance on compliance and enforcement arrangements aligned with the *Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act 1978* and other relevant legislation, user and permitted area operational safety, signage standards, insurance and liability mitigation strategies.
4. Develop and implement, in collaboration with ORV vendors, resources and practices that ensure ORV buyers are informed at the point of sale about ORV registration, regulation and restrictions applicable to ORV vehicle use and consequences of non-compliance.
5. Consider and consult on the regulation of the vendor's role in providing information to buyers regarding ORV registration, regulation and restrictions.
6. Develop and implement, in collaboration with stakeholders and industry representatives, resources to educate and raise community awareness about the proper use of ORVs, ORV permitted and prohibited areas, and the consequences of non-compliance.
7. Ensure that the WA Police Force allocates resources to address unlawful ORV use in consultation with Local Government law enforcement.

**Carried 9/0**

## **5.8 Submissions – Public Health Act 2016 Regulation Review Program (05-031-01-0001 EDR)**

*By Evie Devitt-Rix, Senior Policy Advisor, Community*

### **Recommendation:**

That the interim submissions provided to the Department of Health *Public Health Act 2016* Discussion Papers on Regulations for Construction Sites Facilities, Temporary Toilets and Cloth Materials be endorsed.

### **In Brief:**

- *The Public Health Act 2016* (the Public Health Act) is progressing through a five-stage process of implementation and is currently at Stage 4.
- All regulations from the previous *Health Act 1911* will be repealed, and replaced with new regulations at the commencement of Stage 5.
- As part of the regulation review program, the Department of Health (DOH) released discussion papers on sanitation provision and maintenance at construction sites and mobile, temporary or remote worksites; cloth materials; and temporary toilets in July 2018. These papers were circulated for Local Government consultation, which was open for a period of 12 weeks.
- WALGA engaged with Local Governments to produce a response to each of these discussion papers.

### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Craig Simkin

That the interim submissions provided to the Department of Health *Public Health Act 2016* Discussion Papers on Regulations for Construction Sites Facilities, Temporary Toilets and Cloth Materials, be endorsed.

**Carried 9/0**

## **5.9 Aboriginal Advocacy and Accountability Office Interim Submission**

*By Kristie Davis, Policy Manager Community*

### **Recommendation:**

That the interim submission to An Office for Advocacy and Accountability in Aboriginal Affairs in Western Australia: Discussion paper be endorsed.

### **In Brief:**

- The Department of Premier and Cabinet, Aboriginal Policy Unit requested feedback to a discussion paper on the establishment of an Office for Advocacy and Accountability in Aboriginal affairs in Western Australia
- The Association requested feedback from the People & Place Policy team and the Local Government sector through an InfoPage to guide and develop a representative sector submission.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:****Moved:** Anthony Farrell**Seconded:** Craig Simkin

That the interim submission to An Office for Advocacy and Accountability in Aboriginal Affairs in Western Australia: Discussion Paper, be endorsed.

**Carried 9/0****5.10 Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (05-086-03-0004 KD)**

*By Kirstie Davis, Policy Manager Community*

**Recommendation:**

That the interim submission: Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse: A Local Government Response to the Western Australian State Government Child Safety Implementation Plan be endorsed.

**In Brief:**

- The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries requested input from the Local Government sector to develop the Western Australian State Government Child Safety Implementation Plan.
- The Association requested feedback from the WALGA State Council Executive Committee, People & Place Policy Team and the Local Government sector through two separate webinars to develop a representative sector submission.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:****Moved:** Anthony Farrell**Seconded:** Craig Simkin

That the interim submission: Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse: A Local Government Response to the Western Australian State Government Child Safety Implementation Plan be endorsed.

**Carried 9/0****5.11 Partnering with Local Government for Youth (05-065-04-0001 KD)**

*By Kirstie Davis, Policy Manager Community*

**Recommendation:**

That the following amended policy statement be endorsed:

The Local Government sector supports the development and well-being of children and young people through strategic partnerships and a combination of services and facility provision. The Association advocates that the State and Commonwealth should continue to invest in the wellbeing of young West Australians.

**In Brief:**

- The Association was invited by the Hon Peter Tinley, Minister Housing; Veterans Issues and Youth Affairs to attend a roundtable discussion on 27 September 2018 with Terri Butler MP, Shadow Assistant Minister for Young Australians and Youth Affairs, Shadow Minister for Employment Services, Workforce Participation and Future of Work.

- Within the given timeframes the Association requested feedback from selected Local Governments to inform a discussion at the Roundtable.
- The 2019 Federal Election campaign has started and youth is one of the key topics.
- The Association seeks endorsement from WALGA State Council for the advocacy position outlining key priorities for Local Government and Youth.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Craig Simkin

That the following amended policy statement be endorsed:

The Local Government sector supports the development and well-being of children and young people through strategic partnerships and a combination of services and facility provision. The Association advocates that the State and Commonwealth should continue to invest in the wellbeing of young West Australians.

**Carried 9/0**

**5.12 Managing Alcohol in our Communities Guide (06-045-01-0001 EB)**

*By Elle Brunsdon, Policy Officer Community*

**Recommendation:**

That the Managing Alcohol in our Communities (MAIOC) Guide be endorsed.

**In Brief:**

- The aim of the Guide is to support existing Local Government activities, responsibilities and processes to address alcohol-related issues within their communities. The Guide promotes a prevention and risk management approach to create a safe and healthy place for people to work, live and play.
- The Guide has been developed in partnership with the Mental Health Commission (MHC), the Public Health Advocacy Institute of Western Australia (PHAIWA) and WALGA.
- WALGA will hold a launch with the key project partners on Friday, 1 March 2019.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Craig Simkin

That the Managing Alcohol in our Communities (MAIOC) Guide be endorsed.

**Carried 8/1**

**(NB: One member voted against this item as the report was undergoing final editing and not available for review when they tried to access it)**

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**6. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION**

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**6.1 Local Government Act Review (05-034-01-0001 TB)**

*By Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services*

**Recommendation:**

That State Council note the update on the Local Government Act Review process.

**In Brief:**

- The Minister for Local Government commenced a review of the Local Government Act with both a community and a Local Government consultation process in 2017.
- WALGA conducted a comprehensive consultation process with member Local Governments, resulting in the adoption of policy positions on phase 1 of the Local Government Act by State Council in December 2017 and March 2018. The Minister for Local Government announced Phase 1 policy positions at the WALGA Annual General Meeting on 1 August 2018 and intends to introduce legislation prior to the end of the year.
- The Minister for Local Government announced the consultation process for phase 2 of the Act review process in August 2018.
- WALGA in conjunction with the Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries coordinated 19 Local Government Act forums across the State in Zone groupings in October and November 2018.
- Local Governments are being requested to provide a submission on the Act Review to WALGA by 28 January 2019.
- A State-wide Local Government forum is proposed for 30 January 2019.
- Sector positions on the Act review will be considered at the February/March 2019 round of Zone/State Council meetings to comply with the deadline date of 31 March 2019.

**6.2 Economic Development Project (05-088-03-001 DM)**

*By Anne Bank McAllister, Regional Capacity Building Manager and Dana Mason, Policy Manager Economics*

**Recommendation:**

That State Council note the WALGA's Economic Development Project update.

**In Brief:**

- In 2018, WALGA commenced a project to help Local Governments to understand their role in supporting their local economy, and to provide practical tools to help the sector to understand the types of activities that they can undertake.
- The project outputs will include:
  - Local Government Economic Development Framework – Tool to assist the sector to understand its role and inform economic development activities.
  - Discussion paper – Research summary and policy agenda to support Local Governments to undertake their role in driving local economic development.
  - Ongoing support to WALGA members.

WALGA has engaged broadly with its members and other stakeholders in scoping and progressing the project and has received positive feedback to date. The project is well under way, and final documents are being prepared for the State Council meeting in March 2019

### **6.3 Report: Review of Local Government Car Parking Requirements in Western Australia (05-036-03-0063 AR)**

*By Ashley Robb, Project Officer, Planning and Improvement*

#### **Recommendation:**

That State Council note the report: *Review of Local Government Car Parking Requirements in Western Australia*.

#### **In Brief:**

- In 2017, WALGA hosted a workshop to discuss the regulation of car parking requirements, as well as potential options for addressing a range of car parking issues.
- Historically, car parking requirements have been regulated through the codification of minimum parking ratios in local planning schemes and local planning policies.
- A key finding from the 2017 member workshop was that the historical basis for these minimum car parking ratios, and how these ratios have evolved over time, is uncertain.
- WALGA, in collaboration with the Department of Transport and Cardno, has finalised a report which evaluates the historical bases being used to identify car parking requirements by Local Governments in Western Australia.
- The report finds that the use of minimum car parking ratios in Western Australia is poorly related to demand and broader community needs. The report identifies that existing parking requirements have usually been informed by a patchwork of sources.
- These findings suggest that while these sources provide a convenient set of tools for identifying and codifying parking requirements, they are not designed to achieve the environmental, economic or social strategic objectives of individual Local Governments and their communities. The report also includes a discussion of potential policy alternatives.
- Next steps are likely to include the preparation of short case studies and a member workshop to help explain where and how these policy alternatives have been implemented.

### **6.4 Event for Elected Members – Health Services in Regional Areas (05-031-01-0001 EDR)**

*By Evie Devitt-Rix, Senior Policy Advisor Community*

#### **Recommendation:**

That State Council note that WALGA will host an event on Wednesday, 6 March 2018, to provide information on the current situation and future opportunities in regional health to Elected Members and CEOs.

#### **In Brief:**

- In May 2017 the Murchison Zone requested assistance from WALGA on the matter of staffing arrangements for Regional Health Services. As a result of this request, WALGA staff met with WA Country Health Service (WACHS) and St John Ambulance late in 2017, to ascertain levels of assistance, and future opportunities, from these agencies.

- The issue was brought to the WALGA State Council's Strategic Forum in March 2018 to determine the extent of the issue for Local Governments across Western Australia.
- In May 2018 WALGA conducted the Regional Health Services in Western Australia Survey of Local Governments, receiving a total of 161 responses from 91 Local Governments. A report summarising survey findings and making recommendations was endorsed by State Council in September 2018.
- In order to address these recommendations, and build the capacity for Local Governments to seek support for these issues, WALGA will host an event for Elected Members and CEOs prior to the next State Council meeting on 6 March 2018.

## **6.5 Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) (05-018-04-0004 KD)**

*By Kirstie Davis, Policy Manager Community*

### **Recommendation:**

That State Council note the findings from research into the Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) Initiative.

### **In Brief:**

WALGA has:

- Received official correspondence from the Northern Country and South West Country Zones at their scheduled meetings on 22 June 2018.
- Written to the Commissioner of Police on 27 August 2018 and received a written response from Assistant Commissioner of Police on 22 October 2018 clarifying the Western Australian Police Force's position on the matter.
- Met with key officers at the Western Australian Police Union in September and the Department of Communities (Housing) in October.
- Included in State Budget submission the wider issues of regional service disparity being experienced in Western Australia and outlined solutions and recommendations.
- Wrote to the Minister for Housing on 1 November 2018 and is awaiting a response.
- WALGA now provides for State Council a synopsis of the current state of play and a brief overview of the current Local Government activities underway.

## **6.6 National Redress Scheme (05-086-03-0004 KD)**

*By Kirstie Davis, Policy Manager Community*

### **Recommendation:**

That State Council note the emerging discussions between WALGA, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and the Department of Premier and Cabinet about the National Redress Scheme.

### **In Brief:**

- The Association, together with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries consulted with the Local Government sector to develop the Western Australian State Government Child Safety Implementation Plan which is provided as an Item for Decision at the December 2018 meeting.



- It has now come to the attention of the Association that there needs to be an additional consideration for Local Governments to join the National Redress Scheme and discussion about what this may look like are emerging.

## **6.7 Family and Domestic Violence (05-086-03-0004 KD)**

*By Kirstie Davis, Policy Manager Community*

### **Recommendation:**

That State Council notes the Association's ongoing activity in family and other domestic violence legislative reviews and resource development.

### **In Brief:**

- The Association's workload with family and domestic violence (FDV) related matters has been significantly increasing.
- The Association will continue to advocate for State and Federal Government to consider appropriate resources required to support a localised and coordinated response to FDV.

## **6.8 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (01-006-03-0008 RNB)**

*By Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Recycling*

### **Recommendation:**

That State Council notes the resolutions of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council at its 29 August and 24 October meetings.

### **In Brief:**

- This item summaries the outcomes of the MWAC meetings held on 29 August and 24 October.

## **6.9 Draft National Biosecurity Statement (05-028-03-0011 NM)**

*By Nicole Matthews, Environment Policy Manager*

### **Recommendation**

That State Council notes the WALGA submission on the draft National Biosecurity Statement.

### **In Brief:**

- The Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) has released a draft [National Biosecurity Statement](#) for comment.
- Creating a National Biosecurity Statement was a recommendation of the 2017 independent report, [Priorities for Australia's Biosecurity System, also known as the IGAB Review](#).
- The draft Statement was developed by an independent working group comprising industry, state government and environmental sector representatives.

- A final version of the Statement, incorporating stakeholder feedback will be presented for endorsement at the 2018 National Biosecurity Forum on 29 November 2018. It will then be endorsed by the National Biosecurity Committee, Agriculture Senior Officials Committee and the Agricultural Minister's Forum.
- WALGA informed the sector of the draft Statement through WALGA newsletters and encouraged Local Governments to provide comment by 10 October for inclusion in WALGA's submission or directly to DAWR. WALGA did not receive any comments.
- WALGA's submission on the draft Statement is consistent with the Association's *Biosecurity Policy Position and Recommendations to the State Government* endorsed by State Council in March 2017 (14.1/2017) and comments on the IGAB Review Discussion Paper and Draft Review Report.
- To meet the closing date for submissions, and noting that the draft statement will be finalised before State Council will have the opportunity to consider the WALGA submission, Executive Committee approval of the submission was sought out of session.

## **6.10 Release of the Better Urban Forest Planning Guide (05-038-04-2211 CP)**

*By Craig Perry, Environment Policy Advisor*

### **Recommendation:**

That State Council notes the release of the *Better Urban Forest Planning Guide* on 8 November 2018.

### **In Brief:**

- The *Better Urban Forest Planning Guide* was released on 8 November 2018.
- WALGA collaborated with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage to develop the Guide, which is designed to assist Local Governments understand the significance of, plan for, monitor and manage their urban forests.
- The document provides information, tools and case studies and a toolbox of statutory and strategic planning instruments and guidance to promote the tree retention and planting.
- WALGA's involvement in developing the guide recognises the significant and increasing concern of the sector regarding the loss of trees across the metropolitan area, particularly on private land.
- Many local governments are seeking to address tree loss, including through the preparation and implementation of urban forest strategies, amendments to local planning schemes and the use of tree bonds.
- WALGA is continuing to advocate strongly for changes to State planning policies to support Local Governments efforts in this area.

## **6.11 WALGA Reconciliation Action Plan (03-047-01-0001 RA)**

*By Rowena Amistad, Human Resources Manager*

### **Recommendation:**

That the update relating to WALGA's Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan be noted.

### **In Brief**

- WALGA launched its Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) in March 2018;
- Development of a RAP aims to enable organisations to:

- Build meaningful relationships;
  - Create sustainable opportunities;
  - Set timelines and targets;
  - Engage within their sphere of influence; and
  - Align the goals and aims of the RAP to organisational goals.
- Since the launch of the RAP in March 2018, WALGA has held a number of workshops and events for staff including cultural awareness training and has commenced the development of a cultural protocol and policy guide, and an education guide;
  - WALGA's Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan is available on the WALGA website at: <https://walga.asn.au/About-WALGA/Reconciliation-Action-Plan.aspx>

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Craig Simkin

That State Council Agenda Items numbers 6.1 to 6.11 be noted.

**Carried 9/0**

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## **7. REPORTS**

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### **7.1 WALGA Presidents Report to the Zone**

The WALGA President's Report will be circulated at a later date.

### **7.2 Zone Status Report**

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

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Craig Simkin

That the Northern Country Zone have noted the November 2018 Status Report outlining actions taken on the Zone's resolutions.

**Carried 9/0**

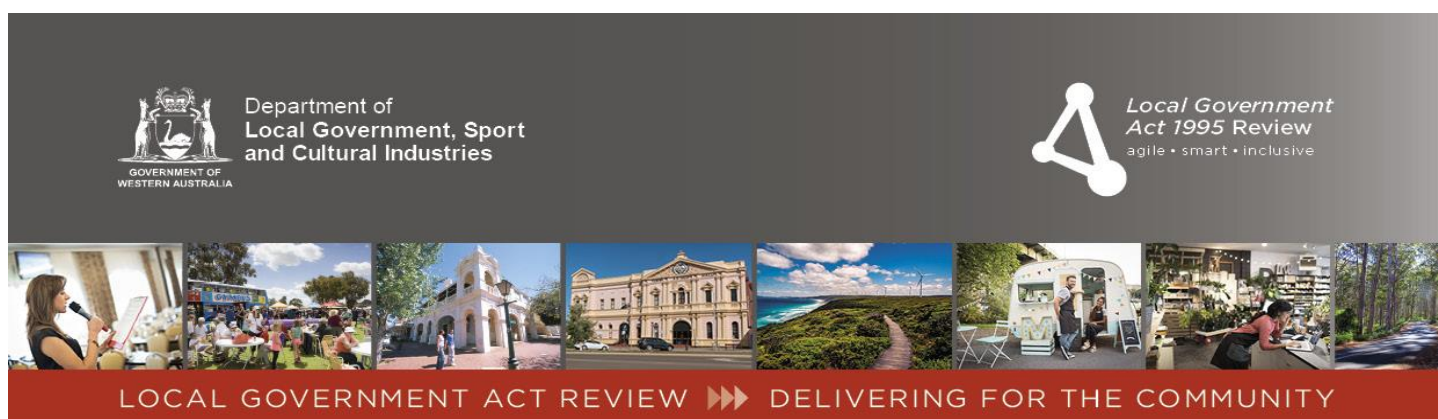
### **7.3 WALGA Zone LG Act Review Forum Report**

Please find below the facilitators' report from the Local Government Act Forum held in Geraldton on 22 October 2018.

There is an item for noting in the State Council agenda (item 6.1) on all forums held in the State. The attached report is specific to the Northern Country Zone for your information.

The WALGA process from here is as follows;

- 16 November 2018 – WALGA distributed an InfoPage requesting Local Governments (Council decision required) to provide a submission on the Act review process. A submission to WALGA is requested by 1 February 2019. This will enable Councils to consider an item at their December meetings.
- November Zone Meetings/December 2018 State Council Meeting – Item for noting will be prepared that will cover information on the LG Act review process and a summary of the forums held in October/November and general themes coming through.
- Late January/Early February 2019 – State-wide Forum on the future of Local Government – The forum will include a review of the information coming through from the Local Government Act forums and submissions, in addition there will be guest speakers presenting on the future of Local Government.
- February Zone Meetings/March 2019 State Council Meeting – Item for Decision on sector positions feedback following feedback from Local Government submissions.



## Local Government Act 1995 CONSULTATION FORUMs

**OCTOBER TO NOVEMBER 2018**

### FACILITATOR REPORT

DATE: 22 OCTOBER 2018

ZONE: NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE

TOWN/VENUE: GERALDTON

FACILITATOR: ALAN FERRIS

NUMBER OF ATTENDEES: 30

#### 1. KEY ISSUES RAISED BY TOPIC

The group identified six **PRIORITY** areas **FOR DISCUSSION IN THE FORUM** being financial management, beneficial enterprises, elections, Intergrated planning and reporting and rates, fees and charges which were discussed in detail.

##### Financial management

- Tenders
  - Support tiers - No Threshold

- Per project – specific – 1-3 financial years
- Bitumen or Aggregate exempt
- Reporting
  - Back to simple
  - Is AAs27 relevant for LG?
  - LG should have its own Accounting Standards
  - Ratios – Why?
  - Depreciation - why? Simple book figure
  - Valuing Infrastructure Assets
  - Revaluation to fair value – waste of money
- Financial Health of LG's 12 months old, based on historical data, relevance?
- Investments – to be registered banking institutions

#### Beneficial enterprises

- Support BE as a tool and definitely want this included as an option for Local Government authorities to use in the new Act.
- Key points discussed included:
  - Should have tiered framework to allow LG's to create small, medium and large BE
  - Still want Regional subsidiaries to be included in the new Act
  - Community need, sentiment and consultation important
  - Business models (limited companies, partnerships) should be best practice based on NZ models
  - Governance – skill set, board and executive outside of LG
  - Conflicts of interest and separation of power
  - Reporting
    - Corp Act
    - Quarterly, annually or bi annual
  - Financial rigour
  - Investment ratios
  - Feasibility of the BE
  - Need for business Plan
- The Act should prescribe the framework that requires an LG to make an application to form a BE
- Understand that the NZ model and support the safeguards around the creation of a BE.
- Need to better understand the process and risks associated with BE.

#### Elections

- One vote/one value (+/- 10%) does not work in rural areas
- Urban /rural representation
- Other factors ie land mass rate earning capacity/export earning/ community of interest need to be taken into consideration.
- More people voting
  - Compulsory voting too expensive
  - Option to operate own voting system should be examined
  - WAEC has a monopoly at the moment and need to open to competition
  - In 15 years on line voting will need to be operational and cost effective (security?)
  - Don't support preferential voting

- Support 1st past the post
- Don't support extraordinary elections due to cost (run with less EM)
- Make it only postal or in person voting
- CEO should not be involved with elections
- How often?
  - Support every 4 years
  - No agreement from group on all in or half in and half out
  - Should be left to each LG discretion
- Small Local Govts
  - Depends on size
  - Everyone has its own issues
- Who should vote?
  - Same as now – electoral roll
  - If you pay rates you should vote
- Don't support elector's meetings
- To call a Special meeting should be a % of population

#### Integrated planning and reporting

- Too much documentation
- Align with bands? Population.
- Scalability
- Need a template from local government or clarity where discretion can be used
- Corporate Business Plan not necessary
  - Use Strategic Community Plan and Budget
  - Year 1 to 5 have detail, Years 5-10 aspirational (SCP)
  - Review every 3 years
- Councillors don't understand the process – education opportunity (training)
- Reporting should be regular and brief on progress
- Impacted by Election process
- Informing Documents
  - Long term financial plan necessary
  - Others should be discretionary
- Should be more Regional collaboration for reporting
- Department to provide specific templates/software to clarify mandatory requirements – Set direction

#### Rates, fees and charges

- Don't support standardised rating categories
  - Need for flexibility across LG's according to local circumstances
  - Should be done by self determination
  - No need for this to be in the legislation
- Rates allocation by location? Service provision? - NO
- Don't support Rates Exemptions LGA's should determine who can be considered for any exemption rather than prescribing in the Act.
  - Definition of charity?
  - Council decision on exemptions via policy
  - Full rates v minimum rates

- Believe that the current process for rates setting is transparent and has accountability
- Support maximum rate for residential
- Support an unconstrained minimum rate
- Principal is that everyone should make a contribution to the services they consume, including not for profits, schools, state government, CBH.
- Principal of the minimum rate works but get watered down in the regulations
- Minister should not interfere in the setting of rates for an LGA.

## 2. KEY IDEAS FOR AMENDED LEGISLATION RAISED BY TOPIC

### KEY IDEAS INCLUDED:

- SUPPORT TIERS BUT NO THRESHOLDS
- REPORTING TO BE SIMPLIFIED
- LG SHOULD HAVE IT OWN ACCOUNTING STANDARD
- SUPPORT THE OPTION TO CREATE BENEFICIAL ENTERPRISES WITH APPROPRIATE RULES AND CRITERIA
- IPR SHOULD BE MORE FLEXIBLE AND SCALABLE
- IMPROVE REPORTING OF IPR OUTCOMES
- DON'T SUPPORT RATE EXEMPTIONS
- UNCONSTAINED MINIMUM RATE
- DON'T SUPPORT COMPULSORY VOTING
- KEEP ELECTION TIME PERIODS THE SAME
- FIRST PAST THE POST SUPPORTED
- NO AGM
- SPECIAL ELECTORS MEETING BY % OF POPULATION

## 3. POINTS OF GENERAL AGREEMENT

### THE GROUPS AGREED THAT THE NEW ACT SHOULD:

- INCLUDE AN OPTION TO ALLOW A LG TO CREATE A BENEFICIAL ENTERPRISE
- NO COMPULSORY VOTING FOR LG ELECTIONS
- DON'T SUPPORT RATE EXEMPTIONS
- COUNCIL TERMS SHOULD REMAIN AS FOUR YEARS WITH HALF IN AND HALF OUT
- THE NEW ACT FRAMEWORK SHOULD INCLUDE INSTRUCTIONS THAT PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND CLARIFICATION
- MORE BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES IN INSTRUCTIONS

## 4. POINTS OF CONTENTION

THE ISSUES AROUND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT WERE CONTENTIOUS. THE COMMENTS THAT COUNCIL SHOULD NOT DEPRECIATE ASSETS AND SHOULD HAVE ITS OWN ACCOUNTING STANDARDS WERE POINTS OF CONTENTION

5. ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT PHASE OF CONSULTATION?

THERE HAS BEEN SOME CONSISTENT MESSAGES AND AGREEMENT ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES DURING THE CONSULTATION. ONE OF THE KEYS IS THAT THE NEW ACT AND FRAMEWORK SHOULD BE PRINCIPLES BASED. AGREEING ON THS FORMAT OF THE FRAMEWORK WHETHER IT BE AN ACT, REGULATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS WILL HELP GUIDE THE NEXT PHASE

6. ANY OTHER OBSERVATIONS?

NIL.

7. OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF WORKSHOP

THE GROUP REALLY ENGAGED VERY WELL IN THE DISCUSSION ON SIX OF THE THEMES THAT WERE IMPORTANT TO THE REGION.

8. ANY LOGISTICAL/VENUE RELATED ISSUES?

NIL

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Craig Simkin

That the Northern Country Zone have noted the facilitators' report from the Local Government Act Forum held in Geraldton on 22 October 2018.

**Carried 9/0**

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**8. BUSINESS**

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**8.1 Set Meeting Dates for 2019**

*Author: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer*

*Attachments: Nil*

**Recommendation:**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA meet, in 2019, on the Monday in the week prior to State Council Meeting, as has been done historically. Those dates would be:

State Council Meeting Dates 2019	NCZ Meeting Dates 2019
Wednesday 6 March	Monday 25 February
Wednesday 8 May	Monday 29 April
Wednesday 3 July	Monday 24 June
Friday 6 September (Regional, Venue TBA)	Monday 26 August
Wednesday 4 December	Monday 25 November



**Comments:**

I received correspondence from WALGA on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November, bringing my attention to 2019 meeting dates for WALGA State Council and showing preferred dates for Zone meetings.

Those dates are:

State Council Meeting Dates 2019	Preferred dates for 2019 Zone meetings
Wednesday 6 March	Between Friday 22 Feb to Friday 1 March
Wednesday 8 May	Between 23 April to 3 May
Wednesday 3 July	Between 20 June to 28 June
Friday 6 September (Regional, Venue TBA)	Between 23 August to 30 August
Wednesday 4 December	Between 22 November to 29 November

Please note that due to Easter and Anzac Day Public Holidays next year, the May State Council Meeting has been moved to Wednesday 8 May 2019 (second Wednesday in May rather than the first).

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Craig Simkin

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA meet on the following Mondays in 2019: 25 February; 29 April; 24 June; 26 August; 25 November.

**Carried 9/0**

**8.2 Submission - New Strategy to Strengthen WA's Country Ambulance Services**

*Authors: Merle Iibister, President Shire of Carnamah*

*Nils Hay, CEO Shire of Mingenew*

*Peter Crispin, CEO Coorow*

*Editor: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer*

*Attachments: Draft Submission on the WA Country Health Services' New Strategy to Strengthen WA's Country Ambulance Services*

**Recommendation:**

That the Draft Submission on the WA Country Health Services' New Strategy to Strengthen WA's Country Ambulance Services be accepted and that the Zone Executive Officer submits it to WA Country Health Service via the online portal, prior to the 10 December deadline.

**Background:**

In 2016, the WA Country Health Service Board endorsed the need for the development of a strategy to ensure that WA Country Ambulance Services meet the needs of regional communities. The Draft Strategy, which is the

result of consultation with key stakeholders who use and run ambulance services in regional locations, is open for public comment until 10 December 2018. Collated feedback responses will be available on the WA Country Health Service portal from the 17<sup>th</sup> December and implementation of the final Strategy is expected to commence early next year.

**Comments:**

As we all well know, the sustainability of regional communities is fragile and the provision of effective medical services, including a well-resourced and efficient ambulance service, is often a key factor when people are deciding whether to stay in the regions or move to the city (or vice versa).

Feedback from Merle Isbister, Peter Crispin and Nils Hay have been included in the attached Draft Submission.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Craig Simkin

That the Draft Submission on the WA Country Health Services' New Strategy to Strengthen WA's Country Ambulance Services be accepted and that the Zone Executive Officer submits it to WA Country Health Service via the online portal, prior to the 10 December deadline.

**Carried 9/0**

**8.3 Invitation to Join Rural Water Council of WA Inc**

*Author: Dianne Daniels*

*Attachments: Correspondence from Rural Water Council of WA Inc Executive Officer, Robert Dew*

**Recommendation:**

That NCZ withholds from voting on this item by Flying Minute, but rather discusses it at the next in-person meeting in February 2019.

**Background:**

The Rural Water Council was formed in 1953 to promote water issues in rural areas. The groups' aims and objectives have been listed in the attached correspondence. The group currently meets in March, July and October at the Water Corporation Offices in Northam, with the July meeting being hosted by a member Local Government. The group is supported by the Water Corporation and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, with representatives regularly attending meetings.

**Comments:**

Sound management of our water resources and infrastructure is imperative to ensure the survival of rural towns and farming communities. An in-person discussion will better highlight the issues surrounding the proposal for NCZ to join the Rural Water Council of WA Inc.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Craig Simkin

That NCZ withholds from voting on this item by Flying Minute, but rather discusses it at the next in-person meeting in February 2019.

**Carried 9/0**

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**9. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone will be held on Monday 25 February 2019 at the Mingenew Sports Pavilion.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Craig Simkin

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone will be held on Monday 25 February 2019 at the Mingenew Sports Pavilion.

**Carried 8/0**

**(NB: One member failed to vote on this item)**