



# Pilbara Country Zone

## Minutes

25 August 2022

# Pilbara Country Zone

Held via MS Teams

Thursday 25 August 2022, commenced at 11:32 am

## Acknowledgement of Country

We, the delegates of the Pilbara Country Zone acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands that we are meeting on today and pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

## Minutes

### MEMBERS

### 2 Voting Delegates from each Member Council

City of Karratha	Mayor Peter Long - <b>Chair</b> Cr Daiva Gillam Mr Chris Adams, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Town of Port Hedland	Cr Tim Turner Mr Carl Askew, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of East Pilbara	President Cr Anthony Middleton Cr Wendy McWhirter-Brooks Mr Steven Harding, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Ashburton	Cr Alana Sullivan (Deputy)
WALGA Secretariat	Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy Chantelle O'Brien, Governance Support Officer
DLGSC Representative	Ms Jodie Swaffer, Acting Regional Manager
Regional Development Australia – Pilbara	Mr Tony Simpson, Chief Executive Officer

### APOLOGIES

Shire of Ashburton	President Cr Kerry White Cr Linton Rumble Mr Kenn Donohoe, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Town of Port Hedland	Mayor Peter Carter
Roadwise	Mr Greg Hayes, Roadwise

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## Contents

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<b>1.</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>DEPUTATIONS.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>BUSINESS ARISING .....</b>	<b>4</b>
4.1	Status Report.....	5
<b>5.</b>	<b>STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>BUSINESS .....</b>	<b>7</b>
6.1	Request to Present - National Emergency Management, Resilience and Recovery Agency (NEMRRA) .....	7
6.2	Review of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007: Consideration of WALGA Discussion Paper 7	
6.3	Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review project.....	9
<b>7.</b>	<b>OTHER BUSINESS.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE REPORTS .....</b>	<b>11</b>
8.1	President's Report to the Zone.....	11
8.2	State Councillor's report to the Zone .....	11
8.3	Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Representative Update Report.....	11
8.4	Regional Development Australia – Pilbara Region.....	11
<b>9.</b>	<b>DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>CLOSURE .....</b>	<b>11</b>

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

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

Confirmation of Attendance attendance was recorded prior to the commencement of the meeting.

## **ATTACHMENTS WITH THE AGENDA**

1. President's Report
2. Status Report

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### **1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

Nil.

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### **2. DEPUTATIONS**

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Nil.

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### **3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

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#### **RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Wendy McWhirter-Brooks  
Seconded: President Cr Anthony Middleton

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Pilbara Country Zone held on 23 June 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

**CARRIED**

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### **4. BUSINESS ARISING**

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## 4.1 Status Report

By Chantelle O'Brien, Zone Executive Officer

### BACKGROUND

Presenting the Status Report for **August 2022** which contains WALGA's responses to the resolutions of previous Zone Meetings.

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Pilbara C	21 April 2022 Zone Agenda Item 6.1 More Than Mining Campaign	That the Pilbara Country Zone seeks that WALGA supports the More than Mining Campaign and to work with the NSW counterpart to lobby for reform to include FBT benefit to regionally based employees of participating councils of the Pilbara Country Zone.	Matter to be added to agenda for next meeting of the Mining Communities Policy forum	August 2022	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039
Pilbara C	2022, 17 February Zone Agenda Item 7.1 Anti-Social Behaviour	That the Pilbara Country Zone requests the WALGA Secretariat to prepare a report for State Council's consideration on advocacy to State Government to extend the Kimberly Justice Strategy into the Pilbara Region.	WALGA will undertake further investigation with Dept. Justice and Dept. Communities contacts in the Pilbara and Kimberly regions to ascertain the current youth justice approaches. Further information will be sought from Pilbara LGA's in relation to the youth crime issues. An update will be provided based on the information gathered from the preliminary investigations in September 2022.  WALGA's Community Policy Advocacy Positions will be reviewed during 2022/23 and this issue will be considered for inclusion as part of that process.	Ongoing	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039

This is an opportunity for Member Councils to consider the response from WALGA in respect to the matters that were submitted at the previous Zone Meeting.

### RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Tim Turner  
Seconded: President Cr Anthony Middleton

That the Pilbara Zone notes the August 2022 Status Report.

**CARRIED**

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

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

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The full State Council Agenda can be found via link: [9 September 2022 State Council Agenda](#)

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

### **Matters for Decision**

#### **5.1 2023-24 State Budget Submission**

That the 2023-24 State Budget Submission be endorsed.

#### **5.2 Proposed Advocacy Position on Management of Bush Fire Brigades**

That the following Advocacy Position on Management of Bush Fire Brigades be endorsed.

#### **8.10 Management of Bush Fire Brigades**

1. Bush Fire Brigade volunteers play a critical role in helping to protect their local communities. Local knowledge and skills are integral to bushfire management in Western Australia.
2. Future management and funding of volunteer Bush Fire Brigades must:
  - a) Recognise the changing risk environment, including work health and safety requirements, and the increasing intensity and frequency of bushfires;
  - b) Take account of the differing circumstances of Bush Fire Brigade units and regional variations in bush firefighting approaches; and
  - c) Be adequately and equitably resourced through the Emergency Services Levy.
3. The State Government, through the Consolidated Emergency Services Act and/or other mechanism's must:
  - a) establish a clear framework to enable transfer of Bush Fire Brigades to the State Government if a Local Government decides to do so;
  - b) Consult on the process, timeline, and implications for transfer of responsibility for Bush Fire Brigades in accordance with 3(a) through the establishment of a working group comprising representatives of Local Government, Bush Fire Brigades, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES);
  - c) Provide for mandatory and minimum training requirements and recognition of competency and prior learning for Bush Fire Brigade volunteers, supported by a fit-for-purpose and universally accessible training program, designed in consultation with Bush Fire Brigade representatives, Local Government and LGIS, and managed by DFES; and
  - d) Develop a co-designed suite of relevant management guidelines and materials to assist in the management of Bush Fire Brigades.
4. The State Government to consider the most appropriate operational model for State Government management of Bush Fire Brigades, which may include the establishment of an independent Rural Fire Service, as recommended in the 2016 Ferguson Report.

### **Matters for Noting**

- 6.1 Local Government Homelessness Knowledge Hub
- 6.2 State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement 2023/24

- 6.3 Paid Family and Domestic Violence Leave Entitlements Update
- 6.4 Proposed State Industrial Relations Transition
- 6.5 2023-24 State Budget Submission Approach

## RESOLUTION

**Moved:** Cr Wendy McWhirter-Brooks  
**Seconded:** Cr Daiva Gillam

**That the Pilbara Country Zone**

- 1. Supports all Matters for Decision as listed above in the September 2022 State Council Agenda; and**
- 2. Notes all Matters for Noting and Organisational Reports as listed in the September 2022 State Council Agenda.**

**CARRIED**

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## **6. BUSINESS**

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### **6.1 Request to Present - National Emergency Management, Resilience and Recovery Agency (NEMRRA)**

*By Chantelle O'Brien, Governance Support Officer*

A request has been received to present at WALGA Zone meetings by a representative from National Emergency Management, Resilience and Recovery Agency (NEMRRA). Candy Hudson covers the Pilbara region along with other regions.

Attached with the Agenda is a Media Release that provides some further information.

Candy is seeking the Zone's support to provide a deputation at the Pilbara Country Zone November meeting that is schedule to be held in Perth on 24 November.

## RESOLUTION

**Moved:** Cr Daiva Gillam  
**Seconded:** Cr Tim Turner

**That the Pilbara Country Zone supports a deputation from Candy Hudson at the 24 November Zone meeting in Perth.**

**CARRIED**

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

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*By Rebecca Brown, Manager Environment and Waste, WALGA*

## 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.

## RESOLUTION

**Moved:** Cr Wendy McWhirter-Brooks  
**Seconded:** Cr Alana Sullivan

**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.
- 4. Environmental biosecurity:** A more balanced view of biosecurity that has a greater focus on environmental biosecurity is required, through increased recognition and management of pest species that have significant ecological impacts.
- 5. Responses to incursions:** Increased and more equitable distribution of funding is required to ensure each step of the biosecurity continuum is adequately resourced for all stakeholders, including Local Government.
- 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**

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### **6.3 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review project**

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*By Susie Moir, Policy Manager, Resilient Communities*

WALGA and the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) Business Unit are working in partnership with key stakeholders to identify options to improve LEMA processes. WALGA has received AWARE funding to undertake the Local Government consultation for the LEMA Review.

WALGA will be delivering a series of workshops with Local Government to contribute to the design of a more streamlined, scalable, and fit-for-purpose LEMA model. The outcomes of the workshops will inform a LEMA Improvement Plan that will be prepared by the SEMC Business Unit.

Interactive workshops are being held in several locations with complimentary refreshments provided.

**Target Audience:** Chief Executive Officers, Emergency Management staff and Elected Members.

#### **Workshop details below:**

- Geraldton 7 September – Geraldton Multipurpose Centre 10.30am – 2:00pm
- Stirling 12 September – City of Stirling Civic Centre, Stirling Room 9:00am –12:00pm
- Katanning 13 September – Katanning Leisure Centre 10.30am – 2:00pm
- Bunbury 14 September – City of Bunbury Administration, Function Room 10.30am – 2:00pm
- Northam 15 September – Bilya Koort Boodja Centre 10.30am – 2:00pm
- Victoria Park 16 September – Town of Victoria Park Administration Building 9:00am –12:00pm
- Online workshops – date TBC

#### **Registration**

To register for a free LEMA Review workshop, [click here](#) and choose your relevant date and location.

Read more in the [WALGA LEMA Review Issues Paper](#). Local Governments are also encouraged to provide written feedback by COB Friday 15 October 2022.

For further information please email [Simone Ruane](#), WALGA's LEMA Review Project Lead, or call 9213 2049.

#### **Noted**

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## **6.4 WALGA Best Practice Governance Review Principles – AGM item**

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*By Tim Lane, Manager Strategy and Association Governance*

### **BACKGROUND**

In March 2022, State Council commissioned the WALGA Best Practice Governance Review (BPGR) with the aim of ensuring WALGA's governance model is contemporary, agile and maximises engagement with members. The BPGR, overseen by a Steering Committee appointed by State Council, is now well underway.

The BPGR Steering Committee have formulated a set of governance principles to guide the development of potential governance models.

At a special meeting on 22 August, State Council endorsed the principles, along with an AGM Agenda item which seeks endorsement of the principles by members at the 2022 Annual General Meeting on 3 October.

The purpose of the AGM item is to gauge member support for progressing the BPGR to the development of potential models.

Following consideration of the principles at the 2022 AGM, an extensive consultation and engagement process will be undertaken with members on these potential governance models. This will occur during October, November and December, with the intention of using the member feedback to inform a final report. This report will then be considered at Zone meetings in February 2023 and subsequently the March 2023 State Council meeting.

Once the final report is endorsed, Constitutional amendments will be prepared for consideration by State Council, followed by the broader membership at the 2023 AGM. As per WALGA's Constitution, amendments to the Constitution require endorsement by a 75 percent majority at both State Council and a general meeting of members.

### **COMMENT**

The AGM Agenda is due to be distributed in late August, ahead of the AGM on Monday, 3 October at Crown Perth.

It is recommended that once the AGM Agenda is distributed, members consider the item and governance principles and inform their registered Voting Delegates on how to vote.

**Noted**

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## **7. OTHER BUSINESS**

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Nil.

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## **8. EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

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### **8.1 President's Report to the Zone**

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The WALGA State Councillor, Mayor Peter Long, presented the President's Report.

**Noted**

### **8.2 State Councillor's report to the Zone**

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

**Noted**

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

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The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries representatives Jodie Swaffer, provided an update the Zone.

**Noted**

### **8.4 Regional Development Australia – Pilbara Region.**

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The Regional Development Australia – Pilbara Region Chief Executive Officer, Tony Simpson provided an update the Zone.

**Noted**

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

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### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Cr Tim Turner  
**Seconded:** Cr Wendy McWhirter-Brooks

**That the next ordinary meeting of the Pilbara Country Zone be held on 24 November 2022, hosted by WALGA in Perth, commencing at 11.30am.**

**CARRIED**

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## **10. CLOSURE**

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There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at **12.01 pm.**