

# Northern Country Zone MINUTES

# **24 AUGUST 2020**

Hosted by the Shire of Mingenew Mingenew Sports Pavilion commencing at 10:06am





















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# 1. OPENING, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair declared the meeting open at 10:06 am, welcomed guests and noted apologies.

# 2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

MEMBERS NB: One Voting Delegate from each Member Council

**Shire of Carnamah** Cr Merle Isbister - President

Mr Vincent Fordham Lamont - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Chapman Cr Anthony Farrell - President

Valley Mr Maurice Battilana - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Coorow Cr Moira Girando - President

John Merrick - Acting Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

City of Geraldton Greater

Mayor Shane Van Styn

Mr Paul Radalj, Director (non-voting)

Shire of Irwin

Cr Mike Smith - President

Cr Ian West

Mr Shane Ivers - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Mingenew

Cr Gary Cosgrove, President

Mr Nils Hay - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

**Shire of Morawa** 

Cr Karen Chappel - President

Mr Rob Paull - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Northampton

Cr Craig Simkin - President

Mr Garry Keeffe – Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Perenjori

Mr Mario Romeo – Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

**Shire of Three Springs** 

Mr Chris Connaughton – Deputy President

Mr Raj Gunner - Deputy Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

**EXECUTIVE** 

Ms Dianne Daniels - NCZ Executive Officer

Mr Mark Batty – WALGA Executive Manager Strategy Policy and Planning

Mr Gary Middle – WALGA Acting Manager Environment Policy

#### **INVITED GUESTS**

Member for Geraldton

Mr Ian Blayney MLA

Mid West Development

Mr Gavin Treasure - Chief Executive Officer

Commission

Mr Bernie Miller – Regional Manager Mid West-Gascoyne

# **APOLOGIES**

Main Roads WA

Shire of Chapman Valley

Cr Kirrilee Warr - Deputy President

Regional Development

Midwest Gascoyne

Ms Yvonne Messina – Chair

Member for Agricultural

Region

Hon. Martin Aldridge MLC

Member for Agricultural

Region

Hon. Darren West MLC

Member for Agricultural

Region

Hon. Laurie Graham MLC

City of Greater Geraldton Cr Tarleah Thomas – Deputy Mayor (NCZ Deputy Chair)

Member for Moore Mr Shane Love MLA

Shire of Three Springs Cr Chris Lane – President

Mr Keith Woodward – Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Perenjori Commissioner Paul Omodei

Regional Development Midwest Gascoyne Mr Mark Holdsworth - Director of Regional Development/Executive Officer

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Mr Richard Malacari - Regional Manager Mid West Gascoyne

# 3. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

# **3.1 Tourism Geraldton Midwest (10:05 – 10:35)**

Mr Matt Rutter Chair

Mr Rutter delivered a presentation on the Tourism Geraldton Midwest (TGMW) Strategic Plan. The presentation is attached to the minutes.

TGMW started out in 2017 as Tourism Geraldton – a group of like-minded people with common interests. In 2020, it went through a Strategic Planning process which identified who they are, why they are here and what they are trying to achieve. Following that process, the region was expanded to cover the Midwest, the organisations' name was changed to reflect that and it was decided to register as a co-operative, as the best legal structure for it. It exists for the benefit of members - its core business is to promote tourism in the region, influence development of new and renewed attractions and to assist members to thrive.

Tourism Geraldton Midwest is on a membership drive and Chair Karen Chappel encouraged members to pass the information on to tourism businesses in their communities.

# 3.2 WALGA (10:35 – 11:05)

Mr Mark Batty Executive Manager Strategy, Policy and Planning

Mr Mark Batty delivered a presentation on Corella control - WALGAs involvement and policy direction in this field over the last few years. The presentation is attached to the Minutes.

The Terms of Reference for the review of the Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act 2007 are soon to be released. This is an opportunity for WALGA to promote discussion from members.

#### 3.3 Department of Fire and Emergency Services (11:05 – 11:15)

Mr Josh Gardner District Emergency Management Advisor (DEMA), Midwest Gascoyne

Mr Gardener, as the new DEMA in the region, introduced himself to members and gave a brief outline of his role. 90% of his role is to support the 19 Local Governments in his region to meet their requirements under the Act – compliance, prevention and preparedness. He also works with responding agencies and LGs to navigate the recovery stage after a disaster and has been doing workshops/desktops with some LGs showing what a COVID-19 outbreak would look like at a local level.

#### 4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Pursuant to our Code of Conduct, Councillors must declare to the Chairperson any potential conflict of interest they have in a matter before the Zone as soon as they become aware of it.

Nil

#### 5. ADJOURNED BUSINESS

Nil

#### 6. MINUTES

Attachments: Minutes of the Meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA 22 June 2020

# 6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

#### Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 22 June 2020 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

# **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

Moved: Cr Farrell Seconded: Cr Simkin

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 22 June 2020 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

#### 6.2 Business Arising from Minutes

Executive Officer Comment – the following item was bought to the 22 June 2020 meeting for noting to ensure that members had the not less than thirty (30) days' notice of the proposed changes as per Item 27(b) of the Constitution.

#### 6.2.1 Amendment to Section 11. Executive Officer, of Constitution

Prepared By: Shire of Irwin Attachments: Constitution

#### Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA amends clause 11(1) of Section 11. Executive Officer, of the Constitution, as shown in red below:

#### 11. EXECUTIVE OFFICER

(1) The Zone may appoint/re-appoint an Executive Officer at such remuneration and on such terms and conditions and with such powers, authorities, discretions and duties as it thinks fit and may terminate the appointment of the Executive Officer:

# (a) Appointment of Executive Officer

- i. Advertise in a public newspaper circulating within the Zone i.e. Geraldton Guardian and/or the Midwest Times;
- ii. Advertise in Zone members' local newspapers;
- iii. The Zone President and Deputy President to short list and interview suitably qualified applicants; and
- iv. Chosen applicant to be endorsed by the Zone.

#### (b) Re-appointment of Executive Officer

The Zone and the Executive Officer shall initiate discussions not later than 6 months prior to the expiry of the term of the Contract for the parties to enter into a new Contract, or not, making a decision to finalise those discussions not later than 3 months prior to the expiry of the term of the Contract.

#### (c) Termination of Executive Officer

i. Effluxion of Time

The Contract between the Zone and the Executive Officer shall, unless a new Contract is negotiated, terminate on the expiry date specified in the Contract.

ii. Termination by Either Party

Either the Zone or the Executive Officer may terminate the Contract by giving three months written notice to the other party. The Zone may approve a payment to the Executive Officer of up to the value of one year's remuneration if the contract has one year or more to run, or, if the contract has less than one year to run, a payment not exceeding the value of the service contract the Executive Officer would have received if the contract had been completed.

#### Comments:

The constitution deals with the membership of the Zone including the election of office bearers but is silent on the method of appointment, re-appointment and termination of the Executive Officer.

This needs to be included as it:

- Provides guidance to members on these matters
- Demonstrates good governance
- Makes the process open and accountable
- Increases the opportunity to attract the most suitable applicant

# **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

Moved: Cr Farrell Seconded: Cr Simkin

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Carried 9/0

Executive Officer Comment - Corella Control was discussed at the 22 June 2020 NCZ meeting and the EO was tasked with two Actions, for follow up at this meeting.

#### 6.2.2 Corella Control

Prepared By: Dianne Daniels

Attachments: Refer Correspondence Out and In as indicated below

#### Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA 1. Forms a Working Group to progress the regional control of Corellas and 2. Advocates, through WALGA, for a state-wide strategy for the control of mobile pest species, including Corellas.

# Background:

Prior to the June 22 2020 NCZ meeting, two letters regarding Corella control were circulated to NCZ members. The first was from Mr Shane Love MLA, Member for Moore, to Hon David Templeman MLA, Minister for Local Government, Heritage, Culture and the Arts. Mr Love requested that Minister Templeman work with the Environment Minister and Agriculture Minister to co-ordinate a state-wide strategy to immediately address the Corella problem in WA.

An excerpt from his letter is shown below:

'Ever increasing numbers of these birds are infiltrating the Wheatbelt, Mid West and Lower Great Southern causing extensive damage to infrastructure and sporting fields at an enormous cost to regional communities...... As a highly intelligent, highly mobile and adaptable species, it is clear that a state-wide and co-ordinated approach is necessary to control these birds'

The second letter was from the Minister for Environment, the Hon Stephen Dawson MLC to Mr Shane Love MLA, noting that Butler's Corella and Little Corella have been declared as managed fauna by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions in recognition of their potential impacts to property, infrastructure and agricultural production. Bird species declared as managed fauna can be taken by means of a licensed firearm

or disturbed using noise or light generating devices without requiring a licence where they are causing economic damage. If other methods are to be used, a licence would be required under the Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018

At the June 22 2020 NCZ meeting, there was a robust discussion on Corella control and the Executive Officer was tasked with the following actions:

Action Item 1: Write to the various Biosecurity Groups within the NCZ region, on behalf of the Zone, asking them to direct some of their funds towards Corella control; and

Action Item 2: Research funding available for pest (specifically Corella) control.

#### Comment:

The following actions have been undertaken to date.

Action Item 1: **Complete** - Write to the various Biosecurity Groups within the NCZ region, on behalf of the Zone, and ask them to direct some of their funds towards Corella control.

The three biosecurity groups, formally recognised under the Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act 2007 (BAM Act), that encompass the Northern Country Zone Region are:

Midlands Biosecurity Group – Carnamah, Coorow, Irwin, Mingenew, Three Springs (plus Dandaragan and Moora)

Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association – Perenjori, Morawa (plus Dalwallinu and Koorda)
Northern Biosecurity Group - Chapman Valley, Mullewa, Northampton

The NCZ Executive Officer wrote to all three Biosecurity Groups on 24 June 2020 (refer Attachments Item 10.1.2, 10.1.3 and 10.1.4 Correspondence Out) asking what actions, if any, were being undertaken by the RBGs to control Corellas in the region and if no actions were being undertaken, would they consider directing funds to that end.

The three Biosecurity Groups considered the correspondence at their respective, recent Board Meetings, after consulting with each other and taking into consideration a briefing note and control options provided by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), who administer the BAM Act.

The DPIRD suggestions for consideration by the RBGs were:

- 1. If RBGs were to consider directing Declared Pest Rate (DPR) funding towards a Corella control program, the RBGs would need to conduct engagement (such as surveys, public meetings) with members and landholders within each RBG to determine if Corellas were a priority species with support for a Corella control program prior to any amendments being proposed to the RBG operational plans. Further, any changes to individual operational plans would take time and would require going through the normal process with DPIRD.
- 2. Individual RBGs may consider attracting other funds outside of DPR funds. If funds were acquired outside the DPR, individual RBGs could consider developing an awareness campaign aimed at raising land-holders knowledge of effective best practice Corella controls. If this proposal garnered support, RBGs could also consider requesting external funding from the NCZ of WALGA to deliver the awareness campaign to landholders. The campaign could include hosting workshops and the development of publications (guidance notes) to communicate key control guidelines to the wider community. Note: RBGs would need to be mindful of the impact upon their capacity and resources as well as the perceived ownership of the problem if they embark on this option.
- 3. RBGs could propose that NCZ of WALGA could engage and collaborate with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), Northern Agricultural Catchments Council WA (NACC) and Wheatbelt NRM to amalgamate Corella controls into existing bird control programs.

I have had a response from Midlands Biosecurity Group (MBG) and Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association (CWBA). Their response letters can be found at Attachment Items 10.2.7 and 10.2.8 Correspondence In. The Northern Biosecurity Group (NBG) met on 12 August 2020 and a response was received just prior to the meeting and circulated to members – refer attachment 10.2.11.

In summary, Corella's are not identified as a priority pest in the MBG, CWBA and NBG current operational plans. They are not funding Corella control programs from DPR funds or external funds and have no plans to do so in the foreseeable future – the problem is regarded as a townsite issue and the RBGs impose DPRs on agricultural properties only. There appears to be little appetite to impose townsite DPRs.

Action Item 2: Complete - Research funding available for pest (specifically Corella) control:

Possible funding sources are listed below:

#### 1. The Advancing Pest Animal and Weed Control Solutions Competitive Grant Round

The Department of Agriculture Water and Environment (Federal Government) will fund projects to better manage the impact of established pest animals and weeds. \$13 million in funding is available. Competitive grant round closing 25 September 2020.

Please note, the competitive grant round will target organisations that have a proven research and development capacity (including local government).

# Required Outcomes:

- Advance a range of breakthrough control solutions that challenge traditional approaches to managing priority established pest animals and weeds to enable better outcomes.
- Deliver innovations that improve existing established pest animals and weeds control methods or tools, as well as improved detection and monitoring methods.
- Further research into, and development of, new and enhanced 'farm ready' pest animals and weeds control tools to increase uptake and accessibility of these tools by farmers and land managers.

Project applications must target invasive, established pest animals or weed species that are <u>not endemic</u> to Australia or a particular part of Australia and so an application to control Corellas may not suit the eligibility criteria.

# 2. The Communities Combating Pest and Weed Impacts During Drought Program – Biosecurity Management of Pests and Weeds

The Department of Agriculture Water and Environment (Federal Government) has offered two rounds of this funding to eligible local councils to help manage the impacts of pest animals and weeds during drought. No round is currently open.

These programs may be beneficial in the region, depending on the season.

# 3. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Have no current funding opportunities. DPIRD representative, Mr Richard Watkins, with whom I spoke noted that native species, such as Corellas, are managed by DBCA.

# 4. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Attachment Item 10.2.9 Correspondence In - Email from Dr Fran Stanley, DBCA, re Corella Control in the Northern Country Zone

I recently made contact with Dr Fran Stanley, Executive Director of Conservation and Ecosystem Management, to find out if DBCA would be interested in funding an ongoing Corella control project (yet to be defined) or working in partnership with NCZ on same.

Dr Stanley mentioned that she had recently been in contact with Mr Gary Middle in relation to reinvigorating the Metro program, but it would be better to have a coordinated program across a larger area. DBCA would be happy to offer advice on how to go about this, techniques to use and facilitate licensing if required, but funding was more challenging, as it is the responsibility of the landowner to manage the declared pests. DBCA did provide seed funding a few years ago to get the Metro program underway, but it was expected that the local governments continue the program with their own funding.

Please note that funding opportunities for the control of declared pests seem to be few and far between.

WALGA have been involved in Corella control in the past, managing a contract to control them across three metropolitan areas. DBCA funded approximately ¼ of the cost of that contract, but then stopped the funding. It became untenable for WALGA to manage, as there was one officer almost full time on the project.

Under the BAM Act s8/s30, the responsibility for undertaking prescribed control measures on declared pests sits with the landowner, no matter the tenure. So, in public spaces in townsites, the responsibility sits with the public authority who has the care, control or management of the land.

It may be beneficial for the Zone to form a Working Group to formulate a control solution and to approach potential partners (eg DBCA, NACC, NRMs, CBH) to assist in the endeavour to control them. The City of Greater Geraldton has undertaken a lot of work in this field (refer to correspondence from Mr Ross McKim at Attachment Item 10.2.3 Correspondence In) and is willing to work with surrounding LGs on a regional solution.

As well as this, the Zone (through WALGA) could advocate for a review of the RBG model. The model is founded on volunteer input and so the success of declared pest control will vary from community to community, depending on the strength of their volunteer army. A state-wide approach to declared pest and weed control may be more effective in controlling mobile pest species, such as Corellas.

The Executive Officer was tasked with sending out Expressions of Interest for a Working Group

# **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

Moved: Mayor Van Styn Seconded: Cr Isbister

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA 1. Forms a Working Group to progress the regional control of Corellas and 2. Advocates, through WALGA, for a state-wide strategy for the control of mobile pest species, including Corellas.

Carried

#### 7. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION

The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 2 September 2020

The Matters for Decision in the State Council agenda are numbered 5.1 to 5.5

The Recommendation and Brief only have been included. Please refer to the attached PDF version of the State Council Agenda for more detail.

# 7.1 (5.1) Park Home Approvals and the Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995 (05-018-02-0002 VJ)

By Vanessa Jackson, Policy Manager, Planning and Improvement

#### Recommendation:

That WALGA requests the State Government to:

- 1. Urgently amend the Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995 to allow the continued lawful placement of new manufactured homes on caravan park sites until 2030; and
- 2. Undertake a full review of the *Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995* and associated legislation and regulations.

# **Executive Summary:**

- The State currently regulates the approval and ongoing management of park homes within a caravan park under the *Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995*.
- A recent SAT case has highlighted the conflict in the various legislative controls on this form of accommodation.
- New Regulations gazetted in March 2020 do not address the fundamental issue of locating park homes within caravan parks, they only provide a temporary solution after the SAT case.
- A full review of the *Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995* and other legislative requirements (i.e. planning and building) is required to enable a more streamlined assessment of park homes in caravan parks, and remove the conflict between the different State legislative requirements.

# **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

Moved: Cr Cosgrove Seconded: Cr Smith

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.1.

Carried

# 7.2 (5.2) Submission on Decision Paper – Swimming Pool and Safety Barrier Control (05-015-02-0010 VJ)

By Vanessa Jackson, Policy Manager Planning and Improvement

#### Recommendation:

That the submission on the Decision Paper on Swimming Pool and Safety Barrier Control, be endorsed.

# **Executive Summary:**

- In June 2020, a Decision Paper on Swimming Pool and Safety Barrier Control was released to the Local Government sector.
- A workshop with Local Government Building Surveyors and Swimming Pool inspectors was held to assist in providing feedback on the 16 proposals contained in the Decision Paper.
- The proposed changes to the swimming pool barrier inspection process has resourcing implications for the sector.
- A submission has been prepared to meet the comment deadline of 16 September 2020.

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

Moved: Cr Isbister Seconded: Cr Farrell

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.2.

Carried

# 7.3 (5.3) Development Assessment Panels (05-047-01-0016 CH)

By Chris Hossen, Senior Planner

#### **Recommendation:**

That the findings and recommendations of the *Development Assessment Panels*, 2011-20 Review be endorsed and that WALGA advocate for:

- 1. The abolishment of the current 'mandatory' mechanism which requires a Development Assessment Panel to act as the decision maker where a proposal has a value of \$10 million or greater, and replace this with an 'opt in' mechanism for all proposals;
- 2. Raising the Development Assessment Panel threshold from the current \$2 million back to \$3 million; and
- 3. The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage to make public comprehensive data related to the performance of the Development Assessment Panel system to improve the transparency of the system.

#### **Executive Summary:**

- The Development Assessment Panels (DAPs) system was introduced in July 2011 with the intention of creating a more streamlined planning approval process and to establish a better balance between professional advice and community representation.
- The Association undertook a review of the DAP system in 2016 in response to motions from Metropolitan Local Governments calling for the abolition of DAPs, this review found that the DAP system was failing to meet its aims.
- The Association has undertaken a further review of the DAP system, looking at the years 2011-2020. This
  review provides evidence that the DAPs system is still failing to meet its aims and objectives and is in need
  of further reforms.

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

Moved: Cr Simkin Seconded: Cr Farell

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.3.

Carried

# 7.4 (5.4) Air Handling Discussion Paper Part Two (05-031-01-0001 BW)

By Bec Waddington, Policy Officer, Community

#### Recommendation:

That the submission to the Department of Health in response to the Air Handling discussion paper Part Two be endorsed.

#### **Executive Summary:**

- The *Public Health Act 2016* 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, which is anticipated to commence in 2021.
- The Department of Health previously released a discussion paper on Air Handling where WALGA provided a formal submission supporting the development of new regulations, but noting the need for further detail in the content of the regulations. The Department has now released part two of the discussion paper which provides more detail on the regulations.
- WALGA's Submission discusses Local Government's preference for air handling enforcement to be centralised with the Department of Health, rather than Local Government as the enforcement agency.

# **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

Moved: Cr Isbister Seconded: Cr Cosgrove

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.4.

Carried

The following Item was a Late Item and the Chair asked the indulgence of members to discuss it, prior to moving a motion.

# 7.5 (5.5) Local Government Review Panel Final Report (05-034-01-0001 TB)

By: Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Service; and James McGovern, Manager Governance

WALGA carried out an extensive consultation process on Phase 2 of the Local Government Act Review in 2018/19, culminating in sector positions being endorsed by State Council in March 2019. This agenda item considers the Local Government Review Panel's recommendations in the context of the sector's current advocacy positions.

The Minister for Local Government has not considered the Panel's recommendations at this stage and has not requested a consultation process on the report. WALGA is taking the opportunity to obtain a sector opinion on the recommendations to provide to the Minister.

The Recommendations below are subject to Zone input and all Zone recommendations will be collated into a consolidated recommendation that will be provided for State Council consideration at its meeting on 2 September 2020.

#### **Recommendations:**

- 1. That WALGA <u>SUPPORT</u> the following Recommendations from the Local Government Review Panel Final Report:
  - Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7;
  - Recommendation 8;
  - Recommendation 11;
  - Recommendations 12, 13 and 14;
  - Recommendation 15:
  - Recommendations 16 and 17;
  - Recommendation 24;
  - Recommendations 25(b) to (f);
  - Recommendations 26(b), (d), (e) and (f);

- Recommendations 28, 29, 30, 31, 32(1)(a) to (o) and 32(2)(a);
- Recommendations 33 and 34;
- Recommendations 36 and 37;
- Recommendations 38(c), (d) and (e);
- Recommendations 39, 40, 41(a) to (g) and (i);
- Recommendation 42:
- Recommendations 43 and 44;
- Recommendations 45, 46, 47, 48 and 49;
- Recommendations 50, 51 and 52;
- Recommendation 54;
- Recommendations 55(a), (b), (d), (e), (f), (h) and (i);
- Recommendation 56;
- Recommendation 57:
- Recommendation 59:
- Recommendations 62 and 63;
- Recommendation 64(c);
- Recommendations 65(a) to (e).
- 2. That WALGA <u>OPPOSE</u> the following Recommendations from the Local Government Review Panel Final Report:
  - Oppose Recommendation 5;
  - Oppose Recommendation 19;
  - Oppose Recommendations 23 and 25(a);
  - Oppose Recommendation 26(c);
  - Oppose Recommendations 32(2)(b) and (c);
  - Oppose Recommendation 35;
  - Oppose Recommendations 38(a) and (b);
  - Oppose Recommendation 41(h);
  - Oppose Recommendations 53(a) and (b);
  - Oppose Recommendations 55(c) and (g);
  - Oppose Recommendation 58;
  - Oppose Recommendation 60;
  - Oppose Recommendation 61;
- 3. That WALGA <u>CONDITIONALLY SUPPORT</u> the following Recommendations from the Local Government Review Panel Final Report as described:
  - Recommendations 9 and 10 and but oppose any proposal to remove the poll provisions (Dadour provisions) in Schedule 2.1, Clause 8 of the Local Government Act;
  - Recommendation 18 and reiterate WALGA's current advocacy position that there be adequate funding of legislative responsibilities assigned to Local Governments in relation to service delivery to remote Aboriginal communities;
  - Recommendations 20, 21 and 27 in support of a broad review of the property franchise including a community consultative process;
  - Recommendation 26(a) conditional upon a review of the relative benefits and merits of changes to reduce numbers of Elected Members on Council be supported, on the following basis:
    - Populations up to 5,000 5 to 7 Councillors (incl. President)
    - Populations between 5,000 and 75,000 5 to 9 Councillors (incl. Mayor/President)
    - o Populations above 75,000 up to 15 Councillors (incl. Mayor);
- 4. That WALGA carry out further consultation on the following Recommendations from the Local Government Review Panel Final Report:
  - Recommendation 22 All In/All Out Elections;
  - Recommendations 64(a) and (b) WALGA
  - Recommendation 65(f) Transfer of Employee Entitlements

#### **Executive Summary:**

- In 2017 the State Government announced a review of the Local Government Act 1995.
- Given the breadth of matters covered by the Local Government Act, a staged approach to the review was adopted:
  - Stage one: priority reforms
  - Stage two: wide ranging reforms leading to a new LOCAL Government Act
- This agenda item relates to the Stage 2 reforms. The Department of Local Government carried out a consultation process in 2018/19 where over 3,000 submissions were received.
- The Minister for Local Government appointed an Independent Panel to consider submissions received by the Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries on the review of the Local Government Act in November 2019.
- The Panel's report has made 65 recommendations
- The Panel's report does not represent Government policy; the Minister for Local Government has stated the report will be considered as part of the Act Review process.
- This agenda item seeks a sector position on the recommendations. The recommendations to support, oppose or seek further consultation or information is proposed in this item.

There was a lengthy discussion on this State Council Agenda Item, with all members and CEO's being given the opportunity to voice their Councils' responses (Responses had been shared by email prior to the meeting).

There was concern voiced that the Zones' ability to provide a considered, unified response to WALGAs' recommendations was being compromised by the short time-frame in which to do it. Members decided that their best course of action was to ask for the report to be laid on the table at the State Council meeting on 2 September, as they don't support the report in its current form, but need time to provide a collective response. If this is agreed to at the State Council meeting, then the Northern Country Zone members will meet to work through each recommendation and will provide their response at the NCZ meeting of November 23 2020.

The Executive Officer was tasked with emailing the following two resolutions to all Zones.

# **Northern Country Zone Resolution 1:**

Moved: Cr Girando Seconded: Cr Cosgrove

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA requests that the paper be laid on the table until such time as all Zones have had an opportunity to form a considered response.

Carried

# **Northern Country Zone Resolution 2:**

Moved: Cr Girando Seconded: Cr Cosgrove

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA does not support the report in its current form.

Carried

# 8. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 2 September 2020.

The Matters for Noting/Information in the State Council agenda are numbered 6.1 to 6.4.

The Recommendation and Brief only have been included. Please refer to the attached PDF version of the State Council Agenda for more detail.

# 8.1 (6.1) 6.1 COVID-19 Pandemic - Update

By Nicole Matthews: COVID-19 Coordinator

Please note: The information contained in this report is up-to-date as of <u>3 August 2020</u>. If required further supplementary information will be provided at Zone and State Council meetings, as well as through other channels, such as the COVID-19 Update from the WALGA President and CEO.

#### Recommendation:

That the information contained in this report be noted.

#### **Executive Summary**

- At the time of writing the COVID-19 pandemic in WA is under control, with a significant reduction in active cases and no evidence of community transmission.
- Restrictions in WA have eased, enabling many businesses and Local Government facilities to reopen.
   However outbreaks in Victoria and New South Wales have delayed the reopening of WA's border until at least August 15.
- While planning for possible local outbreaks of COVID-19 is underway, the focus has turned to recovery.
- The WA Government announced a State Recovery Plan on 26 July 2020. WALGA advocated for a package of Local Government led economic stimulus measures, *Rebooting Local Economies* during the State's consultation on developing the Recovery Plan.
- WALGA has continued to provide dedicated COVID-19 support and advocacy for members, including regular updates, webinars, guidance and analysis.

# 8.2 (6.2) Planning and Development Amendment Act 2020 (06-03-01-0001 VJ)

By Vanessa Jackson, Policy Manager Planning and Improvement

# Recommendation:

That the advocacy undertaken on the *Planning and Development Amendment Act 2020* be noted.

#### **Executive Summary**

- The *Planning and Development Amendment Bill 2020* was passed by Parliament in June 2020, receiving Royal Assent on the 7 July 2020.
- The 26 amendments include a new development assessment pathway to the WAPC, establishment of a Special Matters Development Assessment Panel, and changes to the *Planning and Development Act* 2005 that were foreshadowed in 2013.
- Regulations are currently being drafted by the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage.

#### 8.3 (6.3) Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) Program (05-024-03-0035 EDR)

By Evie Devitt-Rix, Acting Policy Manager, Emergency Management

#### Recommendation:

That the following be noted:

 An update on progress of the Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS), including the implementation timeline for the project.  Advice from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) for Local Governments to suspend investment in current fire danger rating signage (including electronic signs) until a final prototype is announced.

# **Executive Summary**

- The Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) Program will design, develop and implement a
  national fire danger rating system to better describe the overall fire danger and risk to firefighters, land
  managers, broader government including Local Governments, utilities, businesses and the community.
- The project has been endorsed and overseen by the Australian New Zealand Emergency Management Committee and commenced in 2016. Critical research and prototypes are being socialised with all jurisdictions with workshops having been held in WA in September 2019 and July 2020.
- An Implementation Plan is currently being developed by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), which will include extensive engagement with relevant stakeholders across WA to determine impacts and organisational change requirements. Implementation of the AFDRS is scheduled for June 2022.

# 8.4 (6.4) Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (01-006-03-0008) RNB

By Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Recycling

#### Recommendation:

That the resolutions of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council at its 24 June 2020 meeting be noted.

# **Executive Summary**

• This item summaries the outcomes of the MWAC meeting held on 24 June 2020.

# **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

Moved: Cr Isbister Seconded: Cr Cosgrove

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes State Council Agenda Items 6.1 to 6.4

Carried

# 9. REPORTS

# 9.1 Zone President/State Councillor's Report – August 2020

Northern Country Zone of WALGA Presidents Report August 2020

It has been another busy period for Local Governments; budget adoption can be all consuming.

If you have been following the Webinars, there has been one issue after another for us all to be updated on. The recent tabling of the Panel Enquiry Report has many recommendations, some that align with WALGA's sector position, and others that will need strong advocacy from WALGA to be in line with expectations of our members. I do believe there will be some hearty debate over the recommendations, remembering of course that it is the Panels' Report, not the Ministers.

The City of Perth inquiry is as lengthy as a light novel, albeit it would take some imagination to write this novel. Our task is now to ensure that it is not reflected upon all of us. Mayor Tracey Roberts is responding to media, focusing on the good work of Local Government.

Senator Dean Smith visited Morawa recently, so I took the opportunity to ask about the framework of the Drought Reforms. He invited me to attend his office in Perth with my WALGA hat. Mark Batty and I met with Senator Smith to discuss the Regional Drought Resilience Plans that Local Governments are to develop. The framework is currently being formulated so hopefully we have a better understanding of what is expected of us soon.

Today I will be attending a SAC meeting to consider our State Road Funding performance, projects and the agreement. I will be able to update you at the meeting on this.

At the latest ALGA Board Meeting in July it was decided to join the Roads Congress with the ALGA AGM in Wodonga in November. Currently that is still happening. As worthy as it is, I can not imagine many from WA will attend and then come home to isolation. If the COVID-19 spreads in NSW continue, it will have to be reconsidered by the Board.

WALGA's AGM is on Friday 25th September at the Crown. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Finally, it was great to see widespread rainfall this last week bringing a sense of relief to many in our communities.

Karen Chappel

Chair Karen Chappel gave an update on the SAC meeting – there had been a \$28 million underspend across the State; Main Roads will not be extending the travel distance for oversized agricultural machinery before a permit is required.

# **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

Moved: Cr Isbister Seconded: Cr Smith

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the report from the Chair/State Councillor for August 2020.

Carried

# 9.2 WALGA President's Report

The WALGA President's Report to the Zone for September 2020 was circulated prior to the meeting.

Mr Mark Batty spoke to the report.

# **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

Moved: Mayor Van Styn Seconded: Cr Girando

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the September 2020 WALGA President's Report to the Zone.

Carried

#### 9.3 Zone Status Report

A Status Report outlining the actions taken on the Zone's resolutions is attached to the Agenda.

# **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

Moved: Cr Simkin Seconded: Cr Isbister

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the August 2020 Status Report outlining actions taken on the Zone's resolutions.

Carried

# 9.4 Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group Report

The Northern Country Zone's Standing Invitee to the Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group is Merle Isbister.

Nothing to report.

# 9.5 CA07 Restricted Access Vehice Operating Condition Working Group

The Northern Country Zone's Standing Representative on the CA07 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition Working Group is Gary Cosgrove.

Nothing to report.

# 9.6 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Update

Nothing to report

# 10. ZONE MATTERS FOR NOTING/DECISION

# 10.1 Correspondence Out

#### 10.1.1 LG Agricultural Freight Group - Movement of Oversize Agricultural Machinery

Attachment: Letter dated 24 June 2020

NCZ's response to the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group calling for the Zone's feedback on the requirement to engage a licensed heavy vehicle pilot for movements of oversize agricultural machinery on regional distributer and state roads outside the metropolitan area.

# 10.1.2 Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association - Corella Control

Attachment: Letter dated 24 June 2020

Following Action Items that came out of the June 22 2020 NCZ meeting, a letter asking what actions if any were being undertaken by CWBA to control Corellas in their area and if none were being undertaken, asking if they would consider directing some funds to Corella control.

#### 10.1.3 Northern Biosecurity Group - Corella Control

Attachment: Letter dated 24 June 2020

Following Action Items that came out of the June 22 2020 NCZ meeting, a letter asking what actions if any were being undertaken by NBG to control Corellas in their area and if none were being undertaken, asking if they would consider directing some funds to Corella control.

#### 10.1.4 Midlands Biosecurity Group - Corella Control

Attachment: Letter dated 24 June 2020

Following Action Items that came out of the June 22 2020 NCZ meeting, a letter asking what actions if any were being undertaken by MBG to control Corellas in their area and if none were being undertaken, asking if they would consider directing some funds to Corella control.

# 10.2 Correspondence In

#### 10.2.1 Mr Shane Love MLA

Attachment: Letter from Mr Shane Love MLA to Hon David Templeman MLA

Emailed to members 19 June 2020

A call for a state-wide approach for the control of Corellas.

#### 10.2.2 Mr Shane Love MLA

Attachment: Letter from Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC to Mr Shane Love MLA

Emailed to Members 19 June 2020

A letter explaining the role of the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions in Corella control.

#### 10.2.3 Mr Ross McKim CGG

Attachment: Email dated 01 July 2020 from Mr Ross McKim

Emailed to all members by Mr McKim

An email from Mr McKim outlining actions taken to date by CGG in regard to Corella control and stating the willingness of the City to work with surrounding local governments on this issue.

#### 10.2.4 State Council Summary Minutes 1 July 2020

Attachment: State Council Summary Minutes 1 July 2020

Emailed to Members 7 July 2020

State Council Summary Minutes 1 July 2020

#### 10.2.5 Mr Ross McKim

Attachment: Email dated 09 July 2020

WA Business News Article - Master Builders Association criticised state government's new industrial manslaughter laws.

# 10.2.6 Ms Karen Chappel – Fwd Letter from Mr Geoff Vivian

Attachment: Email from Ms Chappel dated 30 July 2020

Emailed to Members 31 July 2020

A letter from Mr Vivian requesting that local government consider policy initiatives to sustain regional and community journalism.

#### 10.2.7 Ms Linda Vernon EO Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association

Attached: Letter dated 03 August 2020

CWBA response to NCZ 24 June 2020 letter regarding Corella control.

#### 10.2.8 Mr Chris O'Callaghan EO Midlands Biosecurity Group

Attached: Letter dated 10 August 2020

MBG response to NCZ 24 June 2020 letter regarding Corella control.

# 10.2.9 Dr Fran Stanley Executive Director of Conservation and Ecosystem Management DBCA

Attached: Email dated 13 August 2020

Information on Corellas and how DBCA can help with control measures.

# 10.2.10 Mr Robert Dew - Movement of Oversize Agricultural Machinery

Attached: Email dated 14 August 2020

Notification that the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group, at their 10 July meeting, resolved to advise WALGA that it supported a review of the pilot requirements for the movement of oversize agricultural machinery and agreed with your NCZ's suggestion that the movement be without licensed heavy vehicle pilots on regional distributor and State roads from the point of entry to the nearest local government through road or for a distance of 5 km, whichever is the greater.

#### 10.2.11 Ms Marieke Jansen EO NBG - response to NCZ re Corella Control

Attached: Email dated 18 August 2020

NBG response to NCZ 24 June 2020 letter regarding Corella control.

# 10.2.12 Minister Melissa Price - response from DPM re MWSGFR Funding Application

Attached: Email dated 20 August 2020

Notification that the Northern Country Zones' Midwest Secondary Grain Freight Routes funding application had been unsuccessful under the ROSI initiative.

# 10.2.13 Minister Melissa Price to Karen Chappel - Flyer re Targeted Road Safety Works

Attached: Email dated 20 August 2020

Notification that the Australian Government had allocated \$80 million and the West Australian Government had allocated \$20 million to targeted regional road safety works across the State.

# **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

Moved: Cr Farrell Seconded: Cr Cosgrove

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes Correspondence Out at Items 10.1.1 through to 10.1.4 and receives Correspondence In at Items 10.2.1 through to 10.2.13.

Carried

#### 10.3 2019-2020 Audit Report

Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer

Attachment: Audit Report 2019-2020

#### **Recommendation:**

That the 2019-2020 Audit Report for the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be received.

#### Comments:

As has happened historically, the 2019-2020 financial accounts for the Northern Country Zone of WALGA have been audited by Mr Dwayne Wooltorton 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 2020. There were no qualifications.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:** 

Moved: Cr Simkin Seconded: Mayor Van Styn

That the 2019-2020 Audit Report for the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be received.

Carried 9/0

# 10.4 Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 31 July 2020

Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer

Attachments: Bank Statement July 2020

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 July 2020.

#### **Comments:**

The Detailed Income Statement shown below represents the cash position of NCZ at 31 July 2020, as reconciled to the Bank Statement.

			NORTI	HERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA				
			INCO	ME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT				
For the period ending 31-Jul-20								
	Date	Ref	Amount	Description				
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-20		21,130.81					
Deposits			9,000.00	2020-21 Membership Subscriptions x 9				
TOTAL RECEIPTS			9,000.00					
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE			30,130.81					
Payments Made	03-07-20		-2,805.66	Internet tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 202101 - EO services 01/05/2020 - 01/07/2020; Travel expenses				
TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE			-2,805.66					
Closing Cash Balance	31-07-20		27,325.15					
			NORTH	IERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA				
				ANK RECONCILIATION SUMMARY				
			Dr.	For the period ending				
				31-Jul-20				
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-20		21,130.81					
Deposits and Credits			9,000.00					
Cheques and Payments			-2,805.66					
<b>Total Cleared Transactions</b>	31-07-20		27,325.15					
Add back o/s			0.00					
Reconciled Balance			27,325.15					
Bank Statement	31-07-20		27,325.15					
Difference I&E to Bank Statement			0.00					

# **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

Moved: Cr Isbister Seconded: Cr Connaughton

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 July 2020.

Carried

#### 11. GENERAL BUSINESS

As per Item 35 of the Zone Standing Orders, a Delegate may under General Business introduce a motion relating to any item of interest to Local Government, but not otherwise.

# 11.1 Regional Issues

# Background:

As per the resolution at Item 9.1 of the February 2018 minutes, Regional Issues are open for discussion.

# 11.2 Regional Tourism Initiatives

#### **Background:**

As per the resolution at Item 10.1 of the April 2019 minutes, Regional Tourism Initiatives are open for discussion.

Mr Nils Hay noted that Tourism WA have been doing Roadshows around the State. One is scheduled in the Midlands for 15 October 2020 and invitations will be sent out.

Mayor Van Styn mentioned that he had done the day trip on the fast ferry to the Abrolhos – a well worth while experience.

#### 11.3 Other General Business

There was a conversation regarding the Midwest Secondary Grain Freight Routes funding application.

Cr Gary Cosgrove noted that Minister Price had encouraged the Working Group to continue with their efforts, to strengthen their priorities and aim for \$70-\$80 million, leaving State owned roads off the submission.

Mr Bernie Miller noted that the funding application at its current level needed to go through Infrastructure Australia. This is a five-step process and the resources required would be beyond the Zone. He is happy to reconvene with the Working Group to refine and review the application.

Cr Anthony Farrell was concerned that Chapman Valley Road would be taken off the funding application as it is State owned, but due to its place in the State road hierarchy, it receives little funding from the State. The road is failing and needs work.

Mr Gavin Treasure mentioned, regarding MWSGFR funding, that the Midwest Development Commission would be happy to do some more work on the pitch document.

Chair Chappel noted that there is \$10 million available nationally for implementation of Regional Drought Resilience Plans.

# 12. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

#### Recommendation:

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held at the Mingenew Sports Pavilion on Monday 23 November 2020.

# **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

Moved: Cr Girando Seconded: Cr Isbister

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held at the Mingenew Sports Pavilion on Monday 23 November 2020.

Carried

# 13. MEETING CLOSURE

Meeting declared closed at 12.10 pm.