

Great Eastern Country Zone

Minutes

Via GoToMeeting Videoconference

**Commenced at 9:30am
Thursday 30 April 2020**

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Great Eastern Country Zone

Meeting held via videoconference (GoToMeeting)

Commenced at 9.30am, Wednesday 30 April 2020

Agenda

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance

Shire of Bruce Rock	President Cr Stephen Strange Cr Ramesh Rajagopalan Mr Darren Mollenoyux Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Cunderdin	Cr Dennis Whisson Cr Alison Harris Mr Stuart Hobley Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Dowerin	Cr Darrel Hudson Ms Rebecca McCall Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Kellerberrin	President Cr Rodney Forsyth Mr Raymond Griffiths Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Koorda	President Cr Jannah Stratford Cr Pamela McWha Mr Darren Simmons Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Merredin	President Cr Julie Flockart Cr Mal Willis Mr Mark Dacombe Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Mount Marshall	President Cr Tony Sachse – Deputy Chair Mr John Nuttall Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Mukinbudin	President Gary Shadbolt Mr Dirk Sellenger Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Narembeen	President Cr Rhonda Cole - Chair

	Cr Kellie Mortimore
	Mr Chris Jackson Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Nungarin	President Pippa DeLacey
	Cr Eileen O'Connell
	Mr Adam Majid Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Tammin	Cr Glenice Batchelor
	Cr Tania Daniels
	Mr Neville Hale Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Trayning	Cr Geoff Waters
Shire of Westonia	President Cr Karin Day
	Mr Jamie Criddle Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Wyalkatchem	President Cr Quentin Davies
	Ms Taryn Dayman Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Yilgarn	President Wayne Della Bosca
	Cr Bryan Close
	Mr Cameron Watson, Executive Manager Corporate Services

WALGA Representatives

Nick Sloan, Chief Executive Officer

Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Services

Chantelle O'Brien, Governance Support Officer

Guests

Hon. Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt

Hon. Martin Aldridge MLC, Agricultural Region

Jenifer Collins Regional Manager Wheatbelt – DLGSC (local update)

Julie Knight Manager Local Government Executive Support - DLGSC (LG Bill and regulations update)

Gordon MacMile Director Strategic Coordination and Delivery - DLGSC (Redress update)

Liz Toohey A/Manager Local Government Policy and Engagement - DLGSC

Mr Rob Cossart, Wheatbelt Development Commission CEO

Kirsten Twine, Wheatbelt Development Commission

Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt

Apologies

Shire of Dowerin	Cr Julie Chatfield
Shire of Kellerberrin	Cr Scott O'Neill
Shire of Kondinin	President Cr Sue Meeking
	Cr Bev Gangell
	Ms Mia Maxfield Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Mount Marshall	Cr Nick Gillett
Shire of Mukinbudin	Cr Sandie Ventris
Shire of Nungarin	Cr Gary Coumbe

Shire of Trayning

President Cr Melanie Brown

Shire of Westonia

Mr Brian Jones Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

Shire of Yilgarn

Cr Bill Huxtable

Mr Peter Clarke Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

Mr Craig Manton, Main Roads WA

Hon Laurie Graham MLC, Agricultural Region

Ms Sharon Broad, Regional Manager, Water Corporation

Attachments

The following were provided as attachments to the agenda:

1. Great Eastern Country Zone Minutes 26 February 2020.
2. Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee Minutes 16 April 2020.
3. President's Report
 - Attachments Wheatbelt OASG Minutes

State Council Agenda – via link:

<https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/45d4ad85-cc25-4110-b80e-189dddc7a564/Agenda-State-Council-6-May-2020.pdf>

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nil

5. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS

Nil

6. MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held Wednesday 26 February

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Wednesday 26 February 2020 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Quentin Davies

Seconded: President Cr Tony Sachse

That the minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held Wednesday 26 February 2020 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

6.2 Business Arising from the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting Wednesday 26 February 2020

Nil

6.3 Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held Thursday 16 April 2020
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The recommendations from the Executive Committee Meeting have been extracted for the Zones consideration.

6.3.1 (Exec item 5.3) Budget 2020/21

Background:

Preparation of the draft budget for the 2020/21 reporting year will soon commence. This will then be tabled at the April of the Executive committee.

To support the preparation of the budget, the committee was invited to discuss and provide guidance on the following:

- Whether it wishes to provide any budget allocation for a Convention or similar events,
- Other new items of activity, like regional Elected Member training
- Subscription options.

The Committee needs to be aware that total cash currently held is \$184,599 and that this year's subscription was reduced by 50 percent. In determining the subscription, the committee may wish to consider potential activities beyond next year.

Executive Committee Resolved

That the Subscriptions be retained at \$1750 for the 20/21 financial year

ZONE RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Tony Sasche
Seconded: President Cr Dennis Whisson

That the subscriptions be set at \$0.00 for the 20/21 financial year and each member Local Government pay for their own Elected Member training.

CARRIED

6.3.2 Minutes of the Executive Committee 16 April 2020

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Wayne Della Bosca
Seconded: Cr Geoff Waters

That the remaining items contained in the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the Great Eastern Country Zone held Thursday 16 April 2020 be endorsed.

CARRIED

7. ZONE BUSINESS

7.1 Covid-19 Issues – Reference to State Council agenda item

By Tone Brown, Zone Executive Officer

Background

Local Governments advised on significant issues in respect to the Covid-19 pandemic as per below;

7.1.1. School Boarding

Discussion was held on difficulties experienced by regional communities with Perth schools not accommodating students boarding at this point in time. A number of representatives raised this as an issue.

Mia Davies advised for Zone Local Governments to provide her office with any information on this issue and they will follow-up.

7.1.2 Food and Grocery supplies

A number of Local Governments raised concerns with the low percentage of grocery supplies being delivered. In addition concerns were raised about some locations, the deliveries have shifted from once a week to once a fortnight.

Shires that raised concerns were Mukinbudin, Dowerin, Westonia, Nungarin and Bruce Rock.

WALGA CEO Nick Sloan advised that the issue is being addressed through the Freight and Logistics Council, and WALGA will again raise the matter. Mia Davies and Martin Aldridge also advised that they will follow up on this issue.

Noted

7.2 Office of Auditor General – Audit Costs 20/21 financial year

By Tony Brown, Zone Executive Officer

Background

As everyone is aware the Office of Auditor General (OAG) now has responsibility for Local Government audits.

The Zone had previously endorsed the following position in respect to the OAG;

That WALGA;

- 1) Write to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) advising of the cost increases to the Local Government sector in respect to financial audits over the first 2 years of OAG audits and request constraint on audit cost increases in the future.*
- 2) Write to the Minister for Local Government seeking formal commitment that Performance Audits carried out by the Office of the Auditor General are the responsibility of the State Government.*

Comment

With the COVID-19 response issues being addressed, WALGA on behalf of the sector wrote to the Auditor General, as per the following;

Noting the significant amount of time, resources and cost associated with completing performance audits and financial auditing, I urge you to give the strongest possible consideration to:

- *deferring all performance audits for 20-21;*
- *deferring, by six months, Local Government financial and performance audits; and*
- *freezing audit costs for 20-21.*

The deferral of and freezing of audit costs will significantly contribute to the ability of Local Government to deliver on a zero net increase in local government rates, fees and charges for 2020-21, as per the Premiers request.

In conclusion, WALGA recognises that the implications of COVID-19 on our communities are far reaching, and we are determined to assist in reducing the oncoming household and business economic pressures, through the delivery of a zero net increase in local government rates, fees and charges for 2020-21.

The Auditor General has agreed to freezing Audit costs, deferring performance audits – but did not think it would be 12 months and also advised that there would be some flexibility on financial audit timing.

A number of Local Governments have raised concern that if the audits are going to be carried out electronically this year, then the OAG will not be incurring travel and accommodation costs and suggesting that the audit fees should be reduced.

Action

WALGA representatives advised that an invitation will be offered to the Auditor General to attend a future WALGA webinar and respond to the issues listed above.

7.3 Election of Local Government Agricultural Freight Group of the Great Eastern Country Zone – 1 Delegate and 1 Deputy Delegate

The Zone Executive Officer received the following communication in regards to the Great Eastern Country Zone's representation on the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group:

At its last meeting the WA Local Government Agricultural Group elected Cr Rod Forsyth as its Chair. Under the Group's terms of reference the Great Eastern Country Zone is entitled to appoint a further delegate to the Group.

The meeting also noted that your Zone's deputy delegate, Cr Ricky Storer, has resigned as Councillor and President of the Shire of Koorda. The Great Eastern Country Zone should also appoint a new deputy delegate to the Group.

Therefore, due to the timing of this information received, nominations were called from the floor.

Delegate

The following nomination(s) were received from the floor:

- Cr Julie Flockart Shire of Merredin

DECLARATION

That Cr Julie Flockart, be elected as Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Delegate of the Great Eastern Country Zone.

Deputy Delegate

Nominations will be called from the floor:

- Cr Rhonda Cole Shire of Narembreen

DECLARATION

That Cr Rhonda Cole, be elected as Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Deputy Delegate of the Great Eastern Country Zone

7.4 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group - Comment sought on the Movement of Oversize Agricultural Machinery

By Tony Brown, Zone Executive Officer

The Local Government Agricultural Freight Group has circulated the Minutes of their meeting held on 3 April 2020. The Group has requested feedback and comment on the current requirement to have a licensed heavy vehicle pilot for the movement of oversize agricultural machinery on regional distributor and State roads outside of the metropolitan area where the travel is more than 1 km between 'green zones' (see flow chart below).

The following is an excerpt from the minutes on this issue to provide background.

The Shire of Woodanilling has expressed concern at the distance limit placed on regional distributor roads for when a licensed heavy vehicle pilot is required. They have provided the following information which they submitted to the November 2019 meeting of the Great Southern Country Zone.

The Shire notes the changes to pilotage arrangements have allowed increases to vehicle size for specific pilot requirements and the November 2019 flowchart was implemented to address uncertainty in the May 2019 version.

In the attempt to provide a simpler approach, the Shire is concerned with the unintended consequences of treating all regional distributors the same as State roads from a risk perspective and is seeking review or clarification.

For example, Robinson Rd West has been specified within the Shire of Woodanilling as a regional distributor requiring licensed heavy vehicle pilots to move further than 1 km for specified vehicle types.

Local Government Agricultural Freight Group

The issues are:

- *Robinson Rd West has twelve (12) intersecting local roads along its length and only two (2) are crossroads.*
- *Of the remaining 10 intersecting roads on Robinson West Rd, only two are within 1 km of each other.*
Robinson Rd West is one of the safer Shire roads because of the pavement and shoulder width being designed to be the 'backbone' of the central part of the Shire for heavy vehicles, noting it is also the longest Shire road with the most farm frontage for agricultural freight tasks.
- *There are concerns that the 1 km limit along Robinson Rd West will force traffic onto adjacent roads that would create a higher risk, even with agricultural pilots, given the clearance widths. Councillors have been approached by farmers who operate on both sides of the Woodanilling regional distributor roads to highlight the impact on operations to cross the road. A suggested improvement is to consider raising the 1 km maximum on regional distributors to extend to the next local government through road intersection.*

The Great Southern Zone resolved –

That the Great Southern Zone of WALGA requests the review of the distance limit on regional distributor roads before a licensed heavy vehicle pilot is required to be expanded to the nearest local government 'through road' connection.

WA Local Government Association has requested feedback as to whether this issue has arisen elsewhere in order to build the case for change as Main Roads likely see that they have conceded significant controls in this area.

Comment

- This issue is widespread.
- Would the solution proposed address the issue?
- Main Roads has moved a significant degree in modifying the current requirements to meet industry concerns and they may not feel that they can further review the requirements.

Local Government Freight Group RESOLUTION

That the requirement to have a licensed heavy vehicle pilot for the movement of oversize agricultural machinery on regional distributor and State roads outside of the metropolitan area where the travel is more than 1 km between 'green zones' be referred to Zones within the agricultural region for comment and feedback to the Group.

Martin Aldridge provided information on this issue as attached. (Attachment 1)

Discussion on this item focused on leaving the current requirements relating to pilot vehicles as is and monitor the situation.

Zone delegates will discuss the matter at the next meeting of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group.

Noted



mainroads
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

For more information contact our
Heavy Vehicle Help Desk on 138 486
or visit the Agricultural Vehicles
page of our website at
www.mainroads.wa.gov.au

Agricultural Pilot Requirements

Start
How big is your
agricultural
vehicle?
("vehicle" includes
a machine,
implement and
combination)

Size

Any size,
moving from
one farm gate
to another,
within 1 km on
the same local
government road

≤ 3.8m wide &
≤ 25m long
(outside the Red Zone)

> 3.8m but
≤ 4.5m wide
&
a length up to 40m

> 4.5m but
≤ 6.5m wide
&
a length up to 40m

> 6.5m but
≤ 8.5m wide
&
a length up to 40m

Are you in a
Green Zone?

Y

Are you in an
Orange Zone?

Y

Are you in a
Red Zone?

Y

Are you in a
Green Zone?

Y

Are you in an
Orange Zone?

Y

Are you in a
Red Zone?

Y

Are you in a
Green Zone?

Y

Are you in an
Orange Zone?

Y

Are you in a
Red Zone?

Y

Are you travelling
less than 1km
between Green Zones?

N

Y

Are you travelling
less than 1km
between Green Zones?

N

Are you travelling less
than 5km on an
Orange Zone road?

N

Y

Are you travelling
less than 1km
between Green Zones?

N

Are you travelling less
than 5km on an
Orange Zone road?

N

Required Pilots

No Pilot Required -
Traffic Management
Required

No Pilot Required

1 Agricultural Pilot

1 Licensed Pilot

Standard Heavy Vehicle
Pilot Requirements Apply

1 Agricultural Pilot

1 Licensed Pilot

1 Licensed Pilot &
1 Agricultural Pilot

Standard Heavy Vehicle
Pilot Requirements Apply

1 Agricultural Pilot

1 Licensed Pilot &
1 Agricultural Pilot

1 Licensed Pilot &
2 Agricultural Pilots

Standard Heavy Vehicle
Pilot Requirements Apply

7.5 COVID-19 Regional Level Vulnerability Analysis

By Tony Brown, Zone Executive Officer

Background

To assist Local Governments as they look to provide the most appropriate response and recovery packages in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, WALGA have been assessing the extent to which each local community in WA will be impacted by COVID-19. As a way of doing this, WALGA analysed a range of demographic and social data that provide an indication of the COVID-19 health and economic vulnerability of each Local Government Area in WA. The indicators analysed for each Local Government Area include:

Health vulnerability

- Share of people aged over 70
- Share of lone person households
- Share of households with no motor vehicles
- Share of people who need assistance with core activities
- Population density

Economic Vulnerability

- Share of people who work in impacted industries
- Share of businesses in impacted industries
- Share of non-employing businesses
- Share of businesses with less than \$2m in annual turnover
- Share of households with no internet access

Over 60 individual Local Governments have been provided with an analysis pack specific to their district, and now WALGA have aggregated and reported on this data at the WALGA Zone level.

Analysis was attached with the Agenda.

The Zone noted that other issues like Delivery of Aged care services and NDIS may be worth looking at.

Noted

8. ZONE REPORTS

8.1 Zone President Report

By Cr Rhonda Cole

RESOLVED

That the Zone President's Report be received.

8.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group

By Cr Rod Forsyth

RESOLVED

That the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Report be received.

MOTION

Moved: President Cr Rod Forsyth
Seconded: President Cr Stephen Strange

That the Great Eastern Country Zone advocate for an increase of the speed limit for tractors (including self-propelled boom sprays) on roads, to be up to 50kms per hour limit.

CARRIED

8.3 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee

By Cr Tony Sachse

Local Governments continue to deal with the COVID – 19 Emergency on a wide range of matters. WALGA continue to hold weekly COVID – 19 briefings including questions with the Minister for Local Government and other personnel which has been very helpful. Virtually all meetings are now electronic.

The Wheatbelt DEMC Agencies including GECZ delegates Cr Julie Flockart and Cr Tony Sachse have been meeting through the Operational Area Support Group (OASG) on a weekly basis since 24/03/2020. These meetings have allowed for COVID-19 updates and Agency reports. The minutes of these meetings have been passed on to the GECZ Executive and are attached to this report. They contain some information that should not be available to the wider public.

At the time of writing correspondence from the OASG Chair Rachele Ferrari indicated that of the 10 positive cases of COVID-19 in the Wheatbelt, 9 have recovered and only one is currently active. Virtually all Wheatbelt cases have been acquired from overseas and any transmission at local level has been minimal. The Intrastate border controls are believed to have helped considerably in this regard. Tracing the source of any infection is also much easier with the border controls. At this point in time it's a very pleasing result given the potential for spread with all the associated effects where that spread to occur. This has also enabled preparation for dealing with the pandemic to continue on as planned, with the message of "keep preparing" being made.

Most Local Government Local Emergency Managements Committee's (LEMC's) are holding Special Meetings due COVID -19. Some Councils have formed sub-committees on their LEMC's.

The busy agricultural seeding program is now underway. It's to be hoped that most farm and agricultural business' have their individual COVID – 19 emergency plans in place. To that end the GECZ Delegates have met with the Chair and Renee Manning, Industry and Economic Development, Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development (DPIRD). DPIRD are currently in the process of producing an information guideline on COVID-19 for agricultural producers and suppliers. When this becomes available it will be forwarded to the GECZ. Attached is a DPIRD Communique for the Grains Industry response to COVID-19. Comment is that supply and transport of materials for the seeding of crops has been able to continue, and the risk of shortages seems to be easing, although there is still potential for this to occur.

While most people are abiding by the laws and guidelines due COVID – 19, there are still some who have seemingly been in breach. It's to be hoped that any non-compliance will continue to be dealt with by WAPOL. Some are travelling large distances within the Wheatbelt for such things as shopping, when in some cases goods could have been purchased locally. Although not illegal, this intra Wheatbelt travel is disappointing as in some cases it is non-essential travel.

The vision of people at Perth beaches over the Easter weekend has led some to question the popular recreation places in the Wheatbelt being activity discouraged or closed. This would include places such as lakes (e.g. water sports) and granite rocks. Some of these venues are being “opened” again, but will be monitored closely by WAPOL. The approaching ANZAC weekend will again need to be watched closely, and people should closely adhere to National and State guidelines.

There is also some uncertainty within the communities as to how a positive COVID – 19 case is cleared to no longer need to isolate, and then return to work. The different requirements being for those with mild symptoms (3 days with no symptoms and 10 days from onset with no requirement for clear swabs), those who have been in hospital, and those health workers (2 clear swabs), are not well understood. This can lead to concern when previously positive cases “re-enter” the community. Comment though OASG is that every positive case needs to be cleared, and that there are several ways for this clearance to take place, depending on the background and detail of each case.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Tony Sachse
Seconded: Cr Geoff Waters

That the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee Report and attachments be received.

CARRIED

9. WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WALGA) BUSINESS

9.1 State Councillor Report

Cr Stephen Strange

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Stephen Strange
Seconded: President Cr Rod Forsyth

That the State Councillor Report be received.

CARRIED

9.2 WALGA Status Report

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

Presenting the Status Report for April 2020 which contains WALGA's responses to the resolutions of previous Zone Meetings.

GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY ZONE STATUS REPORT APRIL 2020

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Great Eastern C	2019 June 27 Zone Agenda Item 12.1 Government Regional Officer Housing	That the Zone request WALGA to advocate on the impact of Government Regional Officer Housing on retaining public sector professionals (Doctors, nurses, teachers) in the Great Eastern Country Zone.	<p>In May 2019, the McGowan Government deferred a planned increase to GROH rents in 2019-20. The next increase of \$30pw was due to come into effect 1 July 2019.</p> <p>https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2019/05/McGowan-Government-temporarily-defers-increase-to-GROH-rents.aspx</p> <p>WALGA notes and includes the Zones Recommendation in its advocacy for GROH and greater service support for regional and remote Western Australian Local Governments, acknowledging the importance of this topic in the coming months.</p> <p>WALGA has been advised by WAPOL and the relevant State Government agency who confirm the rental freeze to GROH properties will remain until the completion of the review of the GROH Tenant Rent Setting Framework. Further work has been done in strengthening the partnerships between WAPOL officers and key Local Government officers in specified areas of concerns.</p> <p>Department of Communities modelling and draft ERC proposal has been elevated within the Department. The Director General has called for a working group to be established to include representatives from GROH, of which the TSRF review will be included. As further information is made available, WALGA will remain in contact with the Zones to provide timely feedback and advice.</p>	Ongoing	Mark Batty Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning mbatty@walga.asn.au 9213 2078

Great Eastern C	2019 June 27 Zone Agenda Item 7.1 WALGA Advocacy Regarding Greenfinch Mine Expansion	<p>That the Great Eastern Country Zone</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supports the Shire of Westonia's position to seek clearing and mining approval for the proposed Greenfinch mining operation. 2. Requests WALGA to raise the issue with relevant authorities to ensure that the Greenfinch Project has every chance of success. 	<p>Clearing permits have now been issued by DWER, and WALGA is working with the Shire to fast track the land declaration process for the road reserve through the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage.</p> <p>Ongoing.</p>	April 2020	<p>Mark Batty Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning mbatty@walga.asn.au 9213 2078</p>
Grt Eastern C	2019 March Zone Agenda Item 12.3 Telstra – Power Outages Effecting Communications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Requests WALGA to advocate through the State Emergency Management Committee for action in respect to power outages effecting telecommunications and the eligibility for Local Governments to turn generators on. 	<p>WALGA have written to the SEMC to request action in respect to power outages effecting telecommunications.</p> <p>WALGA have advocated to the SEMC and the SEMC have included this item on their agenda at the meeting to be held 2 August 2019.</p> <p>WALGA tabled this issue at the August SEMC meeting requesting SEMC to formally write to the District Emergency management Committees and to provide WALGA with advice on this matter. SEMC have taken this as an action.</p> <p>The Zone will be provided with a copy of SEMC's response when received.</p> <p>This matter has been officially raised at SEMC, particularly the sector is still awaiting a response.</p> <p>WALGA tabled concerns of the sector at the State Emergency Management Committee on Friday 13th December 2019. Following this WALGA met with Telstra and discussed how we can better understand the Telstra notification systems and how Local Governments can access the information and key contacts should this happen.</p> <p>The key outcomes from the meeting were for Telstra to share a series of fact sheets on topics relevant to the issues being faced by your communities and provide key contact information in order for these matters to be escalated or referred should you need to.</p> <p>The first fact sheet provided by Telstra was on Power Outages and was disseminated to all regional councils.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Mark Batty Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning mbatty@walga.asn.au 9213 2078</p>

Grt Eastern C	2018 November 29 Zone Agenda Item 7.4 Water Corporation - New management and billing structure for standpipes	<p>That the Great Eastern Country Zone request WALGA to advocate opposing the WA Water Corporation proposed fee structure in remote parts of the eastern Wheatbelt and;</p> <p>1. Request the Water Corporation look to possible subsidised billing to remote user standpipes for users without any other possible means of potable water;</p> <p>Write to the Department of Water suggesting that as a result of the increased Standpipe water costs that they re-introduce the Farm Water Grants to allow effected landholders the ability to create on-farm water storage and water connections</p>	Considered by the Infrastructure Policy Team at its March meeting and further follow-up with Councils requested with feedback to the next meeting.	April 2020	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Grt Eastern C	State Council Agenda Item 4 March 2020 5.1 National Redress Scheme – Future Participation of WA Local Governments	State Council noting that the Great Eastern Country Zone has reservations about the National Redress Scheme and potential costs to Local Government for attending training and other potential operating costs.	<p>State Council Resolved:</p> <p>That State Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acknowledge the State Government's decision to include the participation of Local Governments in the National Redress Scheme as part of the State's declaration; 2. Endorse the negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding and Template Service Agreement with the State Government, and 3. Endorse by Flying Minute the Memorandum of Understanding prior to execution, in order to uphold requirements to respond within legislative timeframes. <p>RESOLUTION 14.1/2020</p>	April 2020	Mark Batty Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning mbatty@walga.asn.au 9213 2078
Grt Eastern C	Zone Agenda Item 26 February 2020 7.1 Federal Government Drought Communities	That the Great Eastern Country Zone requests WALGA, in consultation with ALGA, to liaise with the WA State Government Ministers for Water, Agriculture and Environment to provide a coordinated holistic response in respect to the ongoing drying climate issues and access to the Drought Communities Funding Program.	<p>State Council Resolution</p> <p>That State Council endorse the recommendation from the Great Eastern Country Zone relating to the Federal Government Drought Communities Program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Great Eastern Country Zone requests WALGA, in consultation with ALGA, to liaise with the WA State Government Ministers for Water, Agriculture and Environment to provide a coordinated holistic response in respect to the ongoing drying climate issues and access to the Drought Communities Funding Program. <p>RESOLUTION 37.1/2020</p>	April 2020 Ongoing	Mark Batty Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning mbatty@walga.asn.au 9213 2078

			WALGA has met with the WA Minister for Water Chief of Staff and is lobbying through both the State and ALGA for a third round of funding, bespoke to Western Australia.		
Grt Eastern C	2018 November 29 Zone Agenda Item 7.3 Container Deposit Scheme Locations	<p>That the Great Eastern Country Zone requests that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All Local Governments be guaranteed, as a minimum, one flexible refund point in their area. 2. A flexible access point should be defined as a refund point which, as a minimum, is open 16 hours each two week period, including at least 8 hours at weekends <p>The State Government provide appropriate funding for the refund points.</p>	Due to COVID-19, in 31 March, the State Government announced that the scheduled implementation date of 2 June 202, has been postponed and will be reviewed in August 2020.	April 2020 Ongoing	Mark Batty Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning mbatty@walga.asn.au 9213 2078
Grt Eastern C	Zone Agenda Item 26 February 2020 6.3.1 (Executive committee item 5.3) Budget 2020/21	The GECZ requested WALGA to provide advice detailing the potential costs if the Zone funded the Council Member Essentials Training for Zone Members, including if the Zone refunds in-person and / or eLearning training costs already incurred by Zone member Local Governments for the April Zone meeting.	Research is being carried out on this item and will be available for the Zone meeting.	April 2020	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au
Grt Eastern C	Zone Agenda Item 26 February 2020 12.1 Landgate – Delays in receiving valuations	Request WALGA to inquire with Landgate in respect to the delays in receiving interim valuations.	WALGA has been carrying out a lot of work in the valuations area, with the priority being to seek deferment of the 20/21 valuations. The issue of timeliness of interim valuations will also be progressed.	April 2020	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au

ZONE COMMENT

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: President Cr Tony Sachse
Seconded: President Cr Mal Willis

That the Great Eastern Country Zone WALGA April 2020 Status Report be noted.

CARRIED

9.3 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Matters for Decision
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BACKGROUND

WALGA State Council meets five times each year and as part of the consultation process with Member Councils circulates the State Council Agenda for input through the Zone structure.

The full State Council Agenda can be found via link: <https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/45d4ad85-cc25-4110-b80e-189dddc7a564/Agenda-State-Council-6-May-2020.pdf>

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

Emerging Issues

4.1 COVID-19 Pandemic – WALGA Response

WALGA Recommendation

That the information contained in this report relating to WALGA's response to the COVID-19 pandemic be noted.

4.2 Local Government Act Emergency Provisions

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA:

1. Notes and supports the introduction of legislation that:
 - a. Provides for Ministerial emergency powers on the condition that the Local Government sector is consulted prior to the issuing of an order using this power, and,
 - b. Provides the ability for Local Governments to suspend a provision of a local law
2. Continues to advocate for the 2019-20 valuations to apply to the 2020-21 rates.

Matters for Decision

5.1 Amendment to Third Party Appeal Rights – Preferred Model

WALGA Recommendation

1. That the proposed amendment to the Third Party Appeals Process Preferred Model, being that third parties in addition to Local Governments are able to make an appeal on decisions made by Development Assessment Panels, is not supported, and
2. That the proposed amendment to the Third Party Appeals Process Preferred Model, being that closely associated third parties in addition to Local Governments are able to appeal decisions made by the Western Australian Planning Commission and the State Administrative Tribunal, in addition to Development Assessment Panels, is not supported.

5.2 Managing Lodging House Health Risks in WA

WALGA Recommendation

That the submission to the Department of Health in response to the Managing Lodging House Health Risks in WA discussion paper be endorsed.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Wayne Della Bosca
Seconded: Cr Kellie Mortimore

That the Great Eastern Country Zone supports all Matters for Decision as listed above in the May 2020 State Council Agenda.

CARRIED

9.4 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Matters for Noting / Information
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- 6.1 **Submission Position Statement: Special Entertainment Precincts and Options Paper for Proposed Amendments to the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997**
- 6.2 **Submission on the Proposed Reforms to the Approval Process for Commercial Buildings**
- 6.3 **Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC)**

9.5 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Organisational Reports
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- 7.1 **Key Activity Reports**
 - 7.1.1 **Report on Key Activities, Environment and Waste Unit**
 - 7.1.2 **Report on Key Activities, Governance and Organisational Services**
 - 7.1.3 **Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure**

7.1.4 Report on Key Activities, People and Place

9.6 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Policy Forum Reports

7.2 Policy Forum Reports

7.2.1 Mayors/Presidents Policy Forum

7.2.2 Mining Community Policy Forum

7.2.3 Container Deposit Legislation Policy Forum

7.2.4 Economic Development Forum

9.7 WALGA President's Report

The WALGA President's was attached to the Agenda.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Gary Shadbolt

Seconded: Cr Geoff Waters

That the Great Eastern Country Zone notes the following reports contained in the WALGA May 2020 State Council Agenda.

- Matters for Noting/Information
- Organisational Reports
- Policy Forum Reports; and
- WALGA President's Report

CARRIED

10. AGENCY REPORTS

10.1 Wheatbelt Development Commission

Mr Robert Cossart, Chief Executive Officer presented to the Zone and encouraged all Local Governments to contact his office with any issues..

10.2 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Representatives from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries updated the Zone.

Julie Knight provided the Department update report and noted that the last payment of the Financial Assistance Grant for 2019/20 will be paid on 15 May 2020.

Please also see link below:

[DLGSC Zone Update](#)

Gordon MacMile provided an update on the National Redress scheme.

Jennifer Collins provided an update on the Wheatbelt office matters. Jennifer advised that all Lotteries West income received is going towards a COVID-19 fund and to date \$159 million has been available. For information on eligibility for the grants please contact the Wheatbelt office.

Noted

10.3 Topics for next meeting update by the DLGSC

Due to the current situation of Covid-19, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries are currently experiencing difficulty in staff availability to ensure that a representative with the expertise in the relevant area can attend Zone meetings. Therefore it is with regret at this time, only the usual sector updates via a link (as per Item 10.1) from the Department will be provided, attendance will occur where possible and requested topics for future meetings will be placed on hold until further notice.

Noted

10.4 Main Roads Western Australia

Mr Craig Manton is an apology for this meeting.

10.5 Wheatbelt RDA

Mandy Walker, RDA Wheatbelt presented to the Zone and the report is attached with these minutes (Attachment 2).

11. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Hon.Mia Davies and Hon. Martin Aldridge provided an update to the Zone and congratulated all Local Governments for their response to the current challenges.

12. EMERGING ISSUES

12.1 Wheatbelt Health MOU Group

Cr Glenice Batchelor advised that she attended the first meeting of the new Health MOU and will provide regular reports back to the Zone

13. URGENT BUSINESS

14. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Great Eastern Country Zone will be held in Kellerberrin or via videoconference (to be confirmed) on Thursday 25 June, commencing at 9.30am.

15. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12.15pm.

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