

Great Eastern Country Zone

MINUTES

Monday, 28 November 2022

Shire of Merredin

Merredin Regional & Community Centre
Bates Street, Merredin

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1. Opening and Welcome

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9.37am.

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

The Great Eastern Country Zone of WALGA acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this land, and pays our respects to their Elders past, present and future.

1.2 Announcements

President Tony Sachse expressed condolences to the family of Bill Fensome who passed away last week. Bill is well known to Local Government in Great Eastern Country Zone having had previous roles as the Deputy CEO of the Shire of Dowerin, CEO of the Shire of Mukinbudin, CEO of the Shire of Merredin, and CEO of the Shire of Nungarin. RIP.

He also expressed condolences to the family of David Blurton CEO of the Shire of Narembreen on the very sad passing of his wife Michelle Blurton tragically passed away recently. RIP.

1.2.1 Resignation of Cr Karin Day, President Shire of Westonia

Cr Karin Day resigned as President from the Shire of Westonia on 17 October 2022 and as such resigned from the Great Eastern Country Executive Committee.

Cr Mark Crees was duly elected as President of the Shire of Westonia at that the Council's meeting on 17 October 2022.

1.2.2 Election of Executive Committee Member of Great Eastern Country Zone

Due to the resignation of Cr Karin Day, there is a vacancy for a replacement Executive Committee Member. Nominations will be called from the floor for the replacement of an Executive Committee Member

Nominees:

Cr Mark Crees, nominated and accepted

Cr Glenice Batchelor, nominated and accepted

Cr Mark Crees withdrew

DECLARATION

That Cr Glenice Batchelor be appointed to the Executive Committee for the period up to November 2023.

2. Attendance

Shire of Bruce Rock

President Cr Stephen Strange
Deputy President Cr Anthony Crooks
Mr Darren Mollenoyux, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Shire of Cunderdin

Deputy President Cr Tony Smith

Shire of Dowerin

President Cr Robert Trepp
Ms Rebecca McCall, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Shire of Kellerberrin

Deputy President Cr Emily Ryan

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| | Mr Raymond Griffiths, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting |
| Shire of Kondinin | President Kent Mouritz Mr David Burton, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting |
| Shire of Koorda | President Cr Jannah Stratford Mr Darren Simmons, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting |
| Shire of Merredin | President Cr Mark McKenzie Cr Romolo Patroni Leah Boehme, Executive Manager Corporate Services |
| Shire of Mount Marshall | President Cr Tony Sachse (Chair) Mr John Nuttall, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting |
| Shire of Narembeen | President Cr Kellie Mortimore Mr Paul Sheedy, A/Chief Executive Officer |
| Shire of Nungarin | President Cr Pippa de Lacy Deputy President Cr Gary Coumbe Mr Leonard Long, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting |
| Shire of Tammin | President Cr Glenice Batchelor Ms Joanne Soderlund, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting |
| Shire of Trayning | President Cr Melanie Brown Ms Leanne Parola, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting |
| Shire of Westonia | President Cr Mark Crees |
| Shire of Wyalkatchem | President Cr Quentin Davies (Deputy Chair) Mr Peter Klein, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting |
| Shire of Yilgarn | President Cr Wayne Della Bosca Mr Nic Warren, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting |
| Guests | |
| Wheatbelt Development Commission | Renee Manning, Principal Regional Development Officer - Central East |
| Main Roads WA | Mohammad Siddiqui, Regional Manager Wheatbelt |
| Water Corporation | Rebecca Bowler, Manager Customer and Stakeholder, Goldfields & Agricultural Region |
| Regional Development Australia WA | Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development |
| National Emergency Management Agency | Annette Balmer, Recovery Support Officer, Wheatbelt & Goldfields Region |
| Members of Parliament | Kathleen Brown on behalf of Hon Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt (Leader of the Opposition) |
| WALGA | Tony Brown, Executive Director Membership James McGovern, Zone Executive Officer Vicki Coles, Governance Specialist Cliff Simpson, Regional Road Safety Advisor |

3. Apologies

| | |
|---|--|
| Shire of Cunderdin | President, Cr Alison Harris Mr Stuart Hobley, Chief Executive Officer |
| Shire of Dowerin | Cr Darrel Hudson |
| Shire of Kellerberrin | Deputy President, Cr Emily Ryan Mr Raymond Griffiths, Chief Executive Officer |
| Shire of Kondinin | Deputy President Cr Beverley Gangell |
| Shire of Koorda | President, Cr Jannah Stratford Deputy President Cr Buster Cooper |
| Shire of Merredin | Cr Donna Crook Ms Lisa Clack, Chief Executive Officer |
| Shire of Mt Marshall | Deputy President Cr Nick Gillett |
| Shire of Mukinbudin | President Cr Gary Shadbolt Deputy President, Romina Nicoletti Mr Dirk Sellenger, Chief Executive Officer |
| Shire of Narembeen | Deputy President, Cr Stirrat Mr David Blurton, Chief Executive Officer |
| Shire of Tammin | Deputy President, Cr Tanya Nicholls |
| Shire of Trayning | Deputy President, Cr Geoff Waters |
| Shire of Westonia | Mr Bill Price, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting |
| Shire of Wyalkatchem | Deputy President Cr Owen Garner |
| Shire of Yilgarn | Deputy President, Cr Bryan Close |
| Members of Parliament | Hon Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt (Leader of the Opposition) Hon Peter Rundle MLA, Member for Roe Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for Agricultural Region Hon Darren West MLC, Member for Agricultural Region Hon Colin de Grussa MLC, Member for Agricultural Region Hon Martin Aldridge MLC, Member for Agricultural Region Hon Sandra Carr MLC, Member for Agricultural Region Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor |
| Guests | |
| Wheatbelt Development Commission | Rob Cossart, Chief Executive Officer |
| Department of Local Government Sport & Cultural Industries | Samantha Cornthwaite, Regional Manager Wheatbelt |
| Water Corporation | Michael Roberts, Regional Manager Goldfields & Agricultural Region. |
| WALGA | Deputy President, Cr Paul Kelly Janine Neugebauer, Governance & Organisational Services |

Attachments

The following are provided as attachments to the minutes:

1. Item No. 12.1 Presentation: Best Practice Governance Review
2. Item No. 6.2 DFES Presentation
3. Item 8.4 Main Roads Report November 2022
4. Item 8.5 Water Corporation Presentation

4. Declarations of Interest

Nil.

6. Guest Speakers / Deputations

The Chair proposed bringing forward Item 12.1, with agreement of the meeting.

12.1 WALGA Best Practice Governance Review | Council Feedback Requested

WALGA is undertaking a Best Practice Governance Review to ensure their governance model is contemporary, agile and maximises engagement with members.

A significant body of work, which is summarised in the [Background Paper](#), has been undertaken by the Project's Steering Committee.

Member feedback, in the form of a Council decision, is requested from Local Governments on the governance model options presented in the [Consultation Paper](#) by **23 December 2022**.

In addition, to supplement Council feedback, WALGA will be undertaking independent consultation to gain deeper insights from the perspective of CEOs and Elected Members.

Tony Brown, Executive Director Membership, provided a presentation to the Zone on the material to assist Local Governments in their deliberations on the consultation paper.
(Presentation: Attachment 1)

NOTED

6.1 Cr Wayne Gibson, Chair, Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network

The Chair of the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network, Cr. Wayne Gibson presented to the Zone.

Cr Gibson confirmed all minutes of the Secondary Freight Network Meetings will be circulated to the Local Governments going forward and that there will be a regular newsletter.

NOTED

6.2 Tanya Ramponi, A/Manager Regulation and Compliance, DFES

Tanya Ramponi, Acting Manager Regulation and Compliance, DFES presented to the Zone on the subject of roadworks during a total fire ban. (Presentation: Attachment 2)

Tanya suggested everyone provides their feedback to the legislation team so they can work on the amendments. Contact details to be provided in an email to WALGA.

ACTION: The Great Eastern country Zone Executive Committee to receive feedback from the Zone members on issues raised during the DFES presentation and bring these issues to the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting in February 2023.

7. Members of Parliament

Kathleen Brown provided an update to the Zone on behalf of Hon Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt (Leader of the Opposition).

8. Agency Reports

8.1 Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries

Samantha Cornthwaite, Regional Manager Wheatbelt was an apology.

NOTED

8.2 Wheatbelt Development Commission

Renee Manning, Principal Regional Development Officer – Central East, provided an update to the Zone.

NOTED

8.3 Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt

Mandy Walker, Director Regional development, provided an update to the Zone.

NOTED

8.4 Main Roads Western Australia

Mohammad Siddiqui, Regional Manager Wheatbelt, provided an update to the Zone.
(Report: Attachment 3)

NOTED

8.5 Water Corporation

Rebecca Bowler, Manager Customer and Stakeholder Goldfields & Agricultural Region, provided an update to the Zone.

NOTED

9. Minutes

9.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Monday, 29 August 2022

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Monday, 29 August 2022 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Shire of Yilgarn
Seconded: Shire of Koorda

That the minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Monday, 29 August 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

9.2 Business Arising from the Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting held on Monday, 29 August 2022

Nil.

9.3 Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Executive Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 17 November 2022

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on Thursday, 17 November 2022 were attached to the meeting Agenda.

Tony Brown advised the Executive Committee that a reminder would be sent to Local Governments to claim the Elected Member Training rebate at the Zone meeting.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Shire of Bruce Rock
Seconded: Shire of Wyalkatchem

That the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on Thursday, 17 November 2022 be endorsed.

CARRIED

10. Zone Business

10.1 Zone Conference 2023

At the Executive Committee Meeting on Thursday, 17 November 2022, it was resolved that the conference date be Tuesday, 28 February 2023 and that a draft program be prepared for the Zone meeting.

Comment

The Executive committee discussed the theme of the conference and potential speakers and listed the following as a starting point;

Date: 28 February 2023

Venue: Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre

Theme: Regional Collaboration

Target Audience: All Elected Members and senior staff from the 16 Local Governments that make up the Zone. Look to encourage those Elected Members that don't normally attend Zone meetings to attend the conference.

Potential Guest Speakers (noting all may not be available):

- Justin Longmuir, Fremantle Football Club Coach – To speak on Leadership and Resilience
- Darren Klem, DFES Commissioner
- Federal Government Minister Kirsty McBain – Local Government and Regional Development
- State Government Minister John Cary MLA – Local Government and Housing issues
- Regional Collaboration speakers and potential panel session
 - Mandy Walker – RDA Wheatbelt
 - Rob Cossart – Wheatbelt Development Commission

- Tuck Waldren - Chair, Central East Accommodation & Care Alliance Inc (CEACA) is a collaboration of 11 Local Governments
 - Danielle Green - General Manager, Dowerin Machinery Field Days
 - John Nuttal – Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network (The Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network (WSFN) is a regional strategy to improve road freight safety and efficiency across the key transport routes that support the region's major industries. It is a jointly funded Program between the 42 Wheatbelt local governments and the State and Commonwealth Governments, the collaboration will see 4400km of high priority routes upgraded in five stages.)
- Potentially a session on Economic Development and a local business success story like Bruce Rock Engineering could present.

The Zone Executive would like to have a professional facilitator. Suggesting Liam Bartlett or someone similar.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Shire of Bruce Rock
Seconded: Shire of Narembeen

1. That the Zone endorse holding a Zone Conference on Tuesday, 28 February 2023 at the Merredin Regional & Community Centre.
2. That the Zone Executive Officer prepare a Conference Program along the lines as listed above.

CARRIED

11. Zone Reports

11.1 Zone President Report

Zone President Tony Sachse provided a report to the Zone.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Shire of Mount Marshall
Seconded: Shire Wyalkatchem

That the Zone President's Report be received.

CARRIED

11.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG)

President Tony Sachse provided a report to the Zone on the Local Government Agricultural Freight Groups activities. It was proposed that the future of the Agricultural Freight Group be listed as a matter for the next Executive Committee meeting in February 2023.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Shire of Narembeen
Seconded: Shire of Koorda

That the Local Government Agricultural Freight Groups Report be received.

CARRIED

11.3 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)

President Tony Sachse provided a report to the Zone.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Shire of Cunderdin

Seconded: Shire of Yilgarn

That the Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee Report be received.

CARRIED

11.4 Regional Health Advocacy Group

At the previous Zone meeting, the Zone resolved as follows:

That the Great Eastern Country Zone write to the WA Country Health Service (WACHS) requesting an update on the review of the Pilot Sites and request the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee to consider the future of the Regional Health Advocacy Group and report back to the next Zone meeting.

Information is being collated on this item and a report will be prepared for the February 2023 meeting.

NOTED

11.5 WALGA RoadWise

Cliff Simpson, Regional Road Safety Advisor provided a report to the Zone.

NOTED

12. Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) Business

Item 12.1 is dealt with on page 6.

12.2 State Councillor Report

Cr Stephen Strange

RESOLUTION

Moved: Shire of Westonia

Seconded: Shire of Nungarin

That the State Councillor Report be received.

CARRIED

12.3 WALGA Status Report

By James McGovern, Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

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

GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY ZONE STATUS REPORT NOVEMBER 2022

| Zone | Agenda Item | Zone Resolution | WALGA Response | Update | WALGA Contact |
|---------------|--|--|---|---------------|--|
| Grt Eastern C | 9 September 2022 State Council Agenda Item 5.2 Proposed Advocacy Position on Management of Bush Fire Brigades | <p>That the following Advocacy Position on Management of Bush Fire Brigades be endorsed.</p> <p><i>Management of Bush Fire Brigades</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>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.</i> <i>Future management and funding of volunteer Bush Fire Brigades must:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Recognise the changing risk environment, including work health and safety requirements, and the increasing intensity and frequency of bushfires;</i> <i>Take account of the differing circumstances of Bush Fire Brigade units and regional variations in bush firefighting approaches; and</i> <i>Be adequately and equitably resourced through the Emergency Services Levy.</i> <i>The State Government, through the Consolidated Emergency Services Act and/or other mechanism's must:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>establish a clear framework to enable transfer of Bush Fire Brigades to the State Government if a Local Government decides to do so;</i> | <p>State Council Resolution</p> <p>That the following Advocacy Position on Management of Bush Fire Brigades be endorsed.</p> <p><i>Management of Bush Fire Brigades</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>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.</i> <i>Future management and funding of volunteer Bush Fire Brigades must:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Recognise the changing risk environment, including work health and safety requirements, and the increasing intensity and frequency of bushfires;</i> <i>Take account of the differing circumstances of Bush Fire Brigade units and regional variations in bush firefighting approaches; and</i> <i>Be adequately and equitably resourced through the Emergency Services Levy.</i> <i>The State Government, through the Consolidated Emergency Services Act and/or other mechanism's must:</i> | November 2022 | Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039 |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| | | <p>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);</p> <p>c) Provide for mandatory and minimum training requirements and recognition of competency and prior learning for Bush Fire Brigade volunteers, supported by <u>locally delivered</u> 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</p> <p>d) Develop a co-designed suite of relevant management guidelines and materials to assist in the management of Bush Fire Brigades.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>a) Establish a clear framework to enable transfer of Bush Fire Brigades to the State Government if a Local Government decides to do;</p> <p>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);</p> <p>c) Provide for mandatory and minimum training requirements and recognition of competency and prior learning for Bush Fire Brigade volunteers, supported by <u>locally delivered</u> 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</p> <p>d) Develop a co-designed suite of relevant management guidelines and materials to assist in the management of Bush Fire Brigades.</p> <p>4. <u>As a matter of priority within the emergency services Acts review</u>, the State Government to consider the most appropriate <u>operational model</u> for management of Bush Fire Brigades, which may include the establishment of an independent Rural Fire Service, as recommended in the 2016 Ferguson Report.</p> <p><u>RESOLUTION 377.7/2022</u> <u>CARRIED</u></p> <p><u>COMPLETE</u></p> | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|

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|---------------|---|---|--|---------------|---|
| Grt Eastern C | 2022, 27 June Zone Agenda Item 8.4 Office of Auditor General | That the Great Eastern Country Zone request WALGA to advocate to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) that: 1. The OAG should be responsible for any additional costs incurred and not the individual Local Governments when a contract auditor cannot complete their contract. 2. The OAG should consider removing the duplicity in the current audit process and look to provide a more efficient service. | Correspondence has been sent to the OAG as per the resolution. Advocacy is continuing with the OAG on this issue. | November 2022 | Tony Brown Executive Director, Member Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au |
|---------------|---|---|--|---------------|---|

Zone Comment

The Executive Officer was requested to check on the accuracy of the Zone Resolution relating to Item 5.2 “Proposed advocacy position on management of Bush Fire Brigades”.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Shire of Yilgarn
Seconded: Shire of Tammin

That the Great Eastern Country Zone, WALGA Status Report for November 2022 be noted.
CARRIED

12.4 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda's – Matters for Decision

12.4.1 State Council Agenda Items – (7 December 2022)

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:
[20221207_State_Council_Agenda \(walga.asn.au\)](https://www.walga.asn.au/20221207_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 2022 Annual General Meeting Resolutions

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. the following resolutions from the 2022 WALGA Annual General Meeting be endorsed for action:
 - 3.8 Review of the Rating Methodology used by the Valuer-General
Advocate for a full review of the rating methodology used by the Valuer-General to value all land in the State of Western Australia.
 - 3.10 Reform of the Cat Act 2011
That the WA Local Government sector requests the WA State Government prioritise reforms to the Cat Act 2011, in accordance with the Statutory Review undertaken and tabled in the State Parliament on 27 November 2019.
2. the following resolutions from the 2022 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the relevant Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:
 - 3.1 Road Traffic Issues
That WALGA advocate on behalf of the local government sector to the State Government and in particular, Main Roads, to increase importance and weight given to local knowledge and input regarding road traffic issues including requests for speed reduction, intersection treatments and overall preventative and traffic safety measures.

3.2 Car Parking and Traffic Congestion Around Schools

That WALGA engages with the State Government on behalf of Local Government to review issues associated with car parking and traffic congestion around school sites including but not limited to:

- 1. Reviewing car parking standards for schools;*
- 2. Ensuring sufficient land is set aside for the provision of parking on school sites;*
- 3. Reviewing the co-location of schools to avoid issues being exacerbated;*
- 4. Restricting school access from major roads;*
- 5. Developing plans to enable schools to manage school traffic;*
- 6. Develop programs to educate drivers; and*
- 7. Develop options and implement initiatives to encourage alternative modes of transport to school.*

3.3 Proposal for Regional Road Maintenance Contracts with Main Roads WA *That WALGA assist Local Governments and work with the Hon Minister Rita Saffioti to introduce a similar program that is currently in play in Queensland and introduce a sole invitee Program for Local Governments to engage in a Road Maintenance Performance Contract with Main Roads WA.*

3.4 Northern Australia Beef Roads Program

That WALGA work with the Hon Madeleine King MP Minister for Resources and Minister for Northern Australia to make Beef Road Funding available to all Australian Local Governments north and south or establish a Southern Australia Beef Road Funding Program to allow for equitable support across Australia's beef and agriculture industries.

3.5 3D House Printing Building Compliance

That WALGA requests:

- 1. Assistance from Minister for Industry and Science The Hon Ed Husic MP, Minister for Housing and Homelessness, Small Business The Hon Julie Collins MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government The Hon Catherine King MP to work with Ministers from all State and Territory Governments who have Building and Construction in their portfolios, to collaborate and to consider removing impediments within the National Construction Code Series and associated Australian Standards, that dissuade industry from adopting 3D printing as a building method.*
- 2. That the Government provide instruments to incentivise private industry to develop 3D printing and include this as an acceptable building practice.*

3.6 South West Native Title Settlement

That WALGA advocate to the State Government that Local Governments be provided with the full list of potential land to be requested for transfer as part of the South West Native Title Settlement and that a minimum of three months be provided for Council to provide feedback.

3.7 Land Offset Compensation to Local Governments

That WALGA advocate to the State Government that the Developer requiring land offsets should be required to provide the offsets within the Local Government where the clearing occurs and where this is not possible, the Developer requiring land offsets within another Local Government be required to pay a fee to the Local Government for the loss of rates and ongoing maintenance of infrastructure to the Land.

3.12.1 Abandoned Shopping Trolleys

That this meeting supports the recent petition to be tabled in the Legislative Council, Parliament of Western Australia, "Removal and Abandonment of Shopping Trolleys 22-0017" calling on the State Government to implement

stringent and uniform shopping trolley containment laws for the whole state of Western Australia.

3. the following resolutions from the 2022 WALGA Annual General Meeting be noted:

3.11 WALGA Best Practice Governance Review – Principles

That:

- 1. The update on the Best Practice Governance Review project be noted, and***
- 2. The principles to inform WALGA's future governance model, as follows and as per the attached Principles document, be endorsed:***
 - a. Representative – WALGA unites and represents the entire Local Government sector in WA and understands the diverse nature and needs of members, regional communities, and economies.***
 - b. Responsive – WALGA is an agile association which acts quickly to respond to the needs of members and stakeholders.***
 - c. Results Oriented – WALGA dedicates resources and efforts to secure the best outcomes for Local Government and supports the delivery of high-quality projects, programs, and services.***

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

That this meeting supports requesting WALGA to advocate for the Local Government reforms to include mandatory superannuation for elected members of Band 1 and Band 2 Councils and supports the optional payment of superannuation for Band 3 and 4 Councils.

5.2 Elected Member Superannuation

RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA:

- 1. advocates for superannuation to be required to be paid to Elected Members of Local Governments in Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) Band 1 and Band 2; and**
- 2. supports the position that superannuation payments to Elected Members of Local Governments in SAT Band 3 and Band 4 should be optional and determined by Council.**

5.3 Biosecurity Advocacy Position

RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse replacing Advocacy Position 4.5 Post Border Biosecurity with a new Biosecurity Advocacy Position as follows:

4.5 Biosecurity

Western Australia's economy, environment and the community are facing increasing challenges posed by already established and new pests, weeds, and diseases.

Local Government has a significant role in biosecurity management, as land managers and regulators, and therefore has an interest in ensuring that Western Australia's biosecurity system, including control of declared pests, is effective and appropriately resourced.

WALGA considers significant changes to the operation of the State's biosecurity system, including the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007, are required to ensure these risks can be managed now and into the future.

To be effective the Western Australian biosecurity system must:

- 1. Take a transparent approach to the notion of 'shared responsibility' by ensuing that:***

- a) *The respective roles and responsibilities of Commonwealth, State and Local Government, industry, landholders, community groups and individuals are agreed and clearly articulated; and*
 - b) *There is improved pest management on State Government managed land and a formalised structure for State Government agencies with responsibilities for biosecurity management to work together and coordinate their activities.*
- 2. *Be underpinned by a strategic framework, developed in collaboration with stakeholders, that:*
 - a) *Establishes priorities for biosecurity threats in geographically defined regions, sets measurable targets and guides investment in biosecurity activities; and*
 - b) *Is regularly evaluated and reported on.*
- 3. *Have a greater focus on environmental biosecurity, through the increased recognition and management of pest species that have significant ecological impacts.*
- 4. *Be adequately, sustainably, and equitably funded:*
 - a) *The appropriateness and effectiveness of the Declared Pest Rate (DPR) and Recognised Biosecurity Group (RBG) model as key mechanisms for the management of widespread and established declared pests should be reviewed and alternate mechanisms considered;*
 - b) *Increased and more equitable distribution of funding for every step in the biosecurity continuum and adequate resourcing for all stakeholders, including Local Government; and*
 - c) *The provision of funding for declared pest management in metropolitan areas.*
- 5. *Ensure that the criteria and process for listing of declared pests is evidence-based, timely and transparent.*
- 6. *Have an increased emphasis on compliance through education and enforcement activity, to ensure land managers are aware of their legislative responsibilities and are supported to implement biosecurity actions.*
- 7. *Facilitate the use of new technologies, strategic monitoring, and the establishment of data management systems to inform biosecurity investment decisions and support adaptive management.*
- 8. *Improve the community's understanding, awareness, and action in relation to biosecurity to assist with threat surveillance and timely response to incursions.*

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

RECOMMENDATION

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

5.5 Updated Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advocacy Position

RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the following updated Advocacy Position on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage:

3.1.3 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 and South West Native Title Settlement

WALGA acknowledges Noongar people as the traditional owners of the South West Region. Local Government is supportive of conserving and protecting the State's Aboriginal cultural heritage.

WALGA supports the introduction of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 which will provide a modern framework for the recognition, protection, conservation, and preservation of Aboriginal cultural heritage and recognises the fundamental importance of Aboriginal cultural heritage to Aboriginal people. The State Government must ensure that:

- 1. The legislation balances the need to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage with the requirement for Local Government to undertake activities in a timely and affordable manner;***
- 2. The implementation and ongoing operation of the legislative system for the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage is adequately resourced to ensure that all parties have the capacity, capability, and resources to discharge their statutory obligations;***
- 3. Support is provided to Local Governments to ensure that they have the resources, capacity, and capability to comply with a complex legislative framework; and***
- 4. Local Governments have the ability to deliver essential infrastructure works and emergency activities efficiently and effectively in order to maintain public safety.***

5.6 Review of Coastal Planning Policy Position

RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse replacing Advocacy Position 6.8 Coastal Planning with a new Coastal Planning Advocacy Position as follows:

6.8 Coastal Planning

WALGA calls for:

- 1. Equitable legislative, regulatory and policy changes that preserve public coastal access for current and future generations.***
- 2. The provision of sustainable and adequate long-term funding for Local Governments to manage the impacts of coastal erosion and inundation.***

Items for Noting/Information

- 6.1 WALGA Best Practice Governance Review Update
- 6.2 2022-23 October Federal Budget
- 6.3 Supporting the Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings – Release of 7 Star Homes Cost Investigation
- 6.4 WALGA October 2022 Quarterly Economic Briefing
- 6.5 WALGA Submission on Phase Two of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 Co-design Process
- 6.6 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC)

RESOLUTION

Moved: Shire of Dowerin

Seconded: Shire of Narembeen

That the Great Eastern Country Zone

- 1. Supports Matters for Decision, items 5.1 to 5.6 as listed above in the December 2022 State Council Agenda, and**
- 2. Notes all Matters for Noting and Organisational Reports as listed in the December 2022 State Council Agenda.**

CARRIED

12.5 WALGA President's Report

The WALGA President's Report was attached to the Agenda.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Shire of Tammin

Seconded: Shire of Yilgarn

That the Great Eastern Country Zone notes the WALGA President's Report.

CARRIED

13. Emerging Issues

13.1 Firearm Use of State Barrier Fence Reserve

Cr Mark Crees, Shire of Westonia informed the meeting of recent correspondence from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) to the Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group (EWBG) informing of the discontinuance of the use of firearms by Licensed Pest Management Technicians (LPMTs) on the State Barrier Fence (SBF).

The Department informed that the rationale for this decision is due to the heightened risk to those permitted access to the vicinity of the SBF such as mining companies, state government agencies and utilities. The management of wild dogs will now rely upon the use of poisons and traps.

The EWBG provided additional advice to the Zone that, in response to a question as to whether firearms would be permitted for animal welfare purposes (i.e., animals ensnared in traps or caught on the fence) to which an informal email response confirmed that this would be permitted. The Zone agreed that the contradictory messaging from DPIRD requires clarification.

Zone delegates raised additional matters for discussion including the lack of consultation with biosecurity groups on this change in policy; the necessity of firearms for the protection of LPMTs; clarification on the issuing of permits for access to the SBF reserve.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Shire of Westonia

Seconded: Shire of Bruce Rock

That WALGA correspond with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and inform the Zone on feedback on concerns raised including:

- 1. The use of firearms is an important and necessary and efficient control measure in the management of wild dogs;**
- 2. That firearm use in some circumstances is a warranted for reasons personal protection of Licensed Pest Management Technicians; and**
- 3. Clarity be sought on the DPIRD policies associated with issuing permits for access to the State Barrier Fence Reserve.**

CARRIED

13.2 Significant Finding in Audit Report Management Letter

CEO Shire of Tammin Joanne Soderlund informed of recent advice from the auditor appointed by the Office of the Auditor General, that the Shire is to receive a significant finding in the management letter for a failure to revalue infrastructure assets in 2021/22. Further information to be provided by the Shire to assist with following action.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Shire of Tammin

Seconded: Shire of Dowerin

That the Shire of Tammin provide WALGA Executive Officer with the detail of concerns regarding significant finding in relation to revaluation of infrastructure assets to enable correspondence with the Office of the Auditor General on this issue.

CARRIED

14. Date, Time, and Place of Next Meetings

The next Great Eastern Country Zone meeting will be held on Monday, 13 February 2023 commencing at 9.30am. This meeting will be hosted by the Shire of Kellerberrin.

The following is the 2023 Zone meeting schedule:

Zone Meeting Dates 2023

| Zone Meeting Dates Monday | Day & Time | Host Council |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 13 February 2023 | Monday 9.30am | Kellerberrin |
| 17 April 2023 | Monday 9.30am | Merredin |
| 19 June 2023 | Monday 9.30am | Kellerberrin |
| 21 August 2023 | Monday 9.30am | Merredin |
| 20 November 2023 | Monday 9.30am | Kellerberrin |

15. Closure

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 1.24pm.

Attachment 1

Best Practice Governance Review

Consultation Presentation

WALGA



Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

WALGA's work regularly takes us across the State and as such we would like to acknowledge the many traditional owners of the land on which we work throughout Western Australia.

We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.

Pictured left: Artwork by Jade Dolman, a young Whadjuk/Ballardong Nyoongar, Eastern Arrernte, Irish woman from Perth.

Opportunity

The Best Practice Governance Review presents an opportunity to improve WALGA's governance model to:

- Deliver strong, clear, focused, and consistent **policy positions** on strategic matters of the most importance to Local Governments in WA
- Drive **advocacy outcomes and impact** on behalf of Local Government in WA and the communities they serve
- Embed **agility and responsiveness**, ensuring member concerns are heard, respected and represented in a timely, efficient and effective manner



Drivers

Corporate Strategy

The Corporate Strategy identified governance model as key opportunity for improvement

Member Feedback

Feedback from members highlighted concerns with current arrangements

Legislative Reform

Local Government legislative reform – WALGA to no longer be constituted under the Local Government Act 1995

State IR Review

State IR Review – opportunity to be a registered organisation

Misalignment

Misalignment between key governance documents

Steering Committee

Appointed by State Council in March 2022:

President Cr Karen Chappel

WALGA President

Cr Paul Kelly

WALGA Deputy President

President Cr Phil Blight

State Councillor, Country

Mayor Carol Adams OAM

State Councillor, Metro

President Cr David Menzel

Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley

Mayor Albert Jacob

City of Joondalup

Andrew Sharpe

City of Albany Chief Executive Officer

David MacLennan

City of Vincent Chief Executive Officer

Nick Sloan

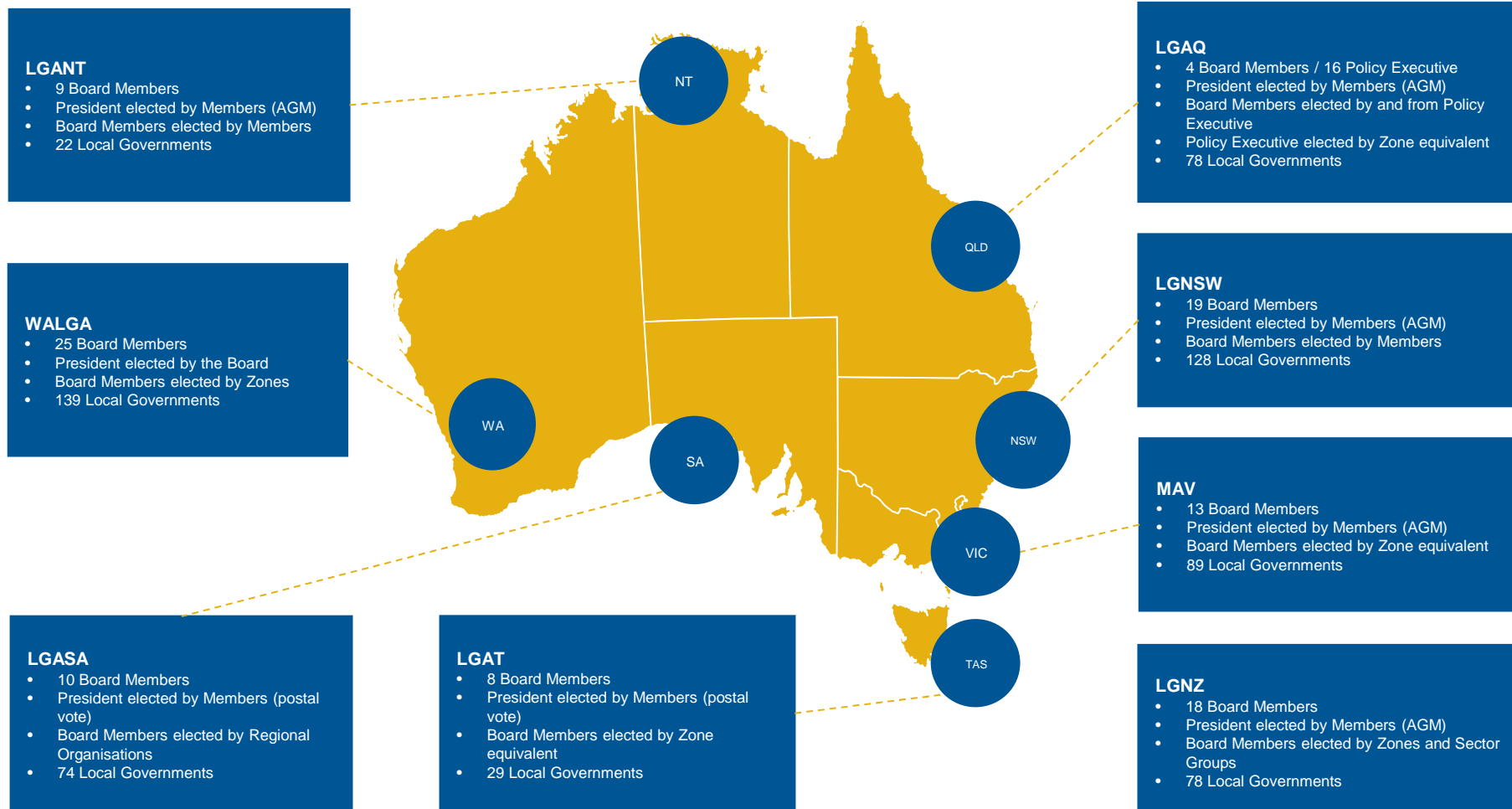
WALGA Chief Executive Officer

Background Work



Summary: Jurisdictional equivalents to WALGA

Summary of jurisdictional analysis of WALGA equivalents in relation to their Board membership, election methods and number of Local Governments.



Summary: Governance structure analysis

WALGA's governance structure was analysed in comparison to five comparator organisations.

| Organisational Comparisons | Number of Board Members | President Elected by | Board Members elected by |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| WA Local Government Association (WALGA) | 25 | The Board | Zones |
| Australian Medical Association (AMA) | 9 | AMA WA Members | Members of the Association |
| Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA (CCIWA) | 7 to 10 | The Board | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Up to 12 elected by MembersUp to 8 appointed by the BoardUp to 8 appointed by the Council |
| Chamber of Minerals and Energy (CME) | 6 to 11 | Ordinary Members | Executive Councillors |
| Australian Hotels Association (AHA) WA | 17 | The Branch Committee of Management | The Branch Committee of Management |
| Pharmacy Guild (PG) – WA branch | 16 to 22 | The Branch | Financial Members from the same region as the Branch |

Note: The Council, Branch, or Board chosen from the organisations above were chosen for how appropriate their structure is as a comparison to the WALGA State Council.

Governance Principles
















The following Governance Principles were endorsed by members at the 2022 AGM

| | Principle | Principle component | Component description | Governance implications |
|------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Representative | WALGA unites and represents the entire local government sector in WA and understands the diverse nature and needs of members, regional communities and economies. | Composition | The composition of WALGA's governance model represents Local Government members from metropolitan and country councils. | The governing body will maintain equal country and metropolitan local government representation. |
| | | Size | An appropriate number of members/representatives oversees WALGA's governance. | Potential reduction in the size of the overarching governing body. |
| | | Diversity | WALGA's governance reflects the diversity and experience of its Local Government members. | Potential for the introduction of a mechanism to ensure the governance model comprises an appropriate diversity of skills and experience. |
| | | Election Process | Considers the processes by which WALGA's governance positions are elected and appointed. | Consideration of alternative election and appointment arrangements, with the President to be elected by and from the governing body. |
| Responsive | WALGA is an agile association which acts quickly to respond to the needs of Local Government members and stakeholders. | Timely Decision Making | WALGA's governance supports timely decision making. | WALGA's governance model facilitates responsive decision making. |
| | | Engaged Decision Making | WALGA's Local Government members are engaged in decision making processes. | WALGA's governance model facilitates clear and accessible processes for Local Government members to influence policy and advocacy with consideration to alternatives to the existing zone structure. |
| | | Agility | Considers the flexibility of WALGA's governance to adapt to changing circumstances. | WALGA's governance model is agile and future proofed for external changes. |
| Results Oriented | WALGA dedicates resources and efforts to secure the best outcomes for Local Government members and supports the delivery of high-quality projects, programs and services. | Focus | Considers the clarity and separation of responsibilities and accountabilities of WALGA's governance. | Governance bodies have clearly defined responsibilities and accountabilities, with the capacity to prioritise and focus on strategic issues. |
| | | Value Added Decision Making | Facilitates opportunities for value to be added to decision making. | Adoption of best practice board processes, and introduction of governance structures that are empowered to inform decisions. |
| | | Continuous Improvement | Considers regular review processes for components of the governance model, their purpose and achieved outcomes. | WALGA's governance is regularly reviewed every 3 to 5 years to ensure the best outcomes are achieved for Local Government members. |

Options and Current Model






Options and Current Model

| Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 | Option 4 | Option 5 |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| Two tier model, existing Zones <div>  <p>Board (11 members) 8 elected from Policy Council, incl. Board elected President Up to 3 independents</p> </div> <div>  <p>Policy Council (25 members) 24 members plus President</p> </div> <div>  <p>Zones (5 metro, 12 country)</p> </div> | Board, Regional Bodies <div>  <p>Board (11 members) 8 elected from Regional Bodies, incl. Board elected President Up to 3 independents</p> </div> <div>  <p>Regional Bodies (4 metro, 4 country)</p> </div> <div>  <p>Policy Teams / Forums / Committees</p> </div> | Board, Amalgamated Zones <div>  <p>Board (15 members) 12 elected from Zones, incl. Board elected President Up to 2 independents</p> </div> <div>  <p>Zones (6 metro, 6 country)</p> </div> <div>  <p>Policy Teams / Forums / Committees</p> </div> | Member elected Board, Regional Groups <div>  <p>Board (11 members) 8 elected via direct election, incl. Board elected President Up to 3 independents</p> </div> <div>  <p>Policy Teams / Forums / Committees</p> </div> <div>  <p>Regional Groups</p> </div> | Current Model <div>  <p>State Council (25 members) 24 State Councillors 1 President</p> </div> <div>  <p>Zones (5 metro, 12 country)</p> </div> <div>  <p>Policy Teams / Forums / Committees</p> </div> |




Option 1 – Two Tier Model, Existing Zones

A description of the governance body structure and role for Option 1

| Governance Body | Structure | Role |
|---|---|--|
|  Board | 11 members: 8 representative members elected from and by the Policy Council (4 Metro, 4 Country). The Board then elect the President from the representative members. The Board will appoint up to 3 independent, skills or constituency directors. | Meet 6 times per year. Responsible for governance of WALGA including strategy, financial oversight, policy development and endorsement, advocacy priorities, employment of CEO, etc. |
|  Policy Council | 24 members plus President. Members elected by and from the Zones (12 from 5 Metro Zones, 12 from 12 Country Zones). | Meet at least 2 times per year to contribute to policy positions and advocacy for input into Board, and to liaise with Zones on policy and advocacy. The Policy Council can form Policy Teams, Policy Forums and Committees, which would have responsibility for specific functions, such as policy development. |
|  Zones | 5 Metro, 12 Country. | Meet at least 2 times per year to raise policy issues, elect representatives to the Policy Council, and undertake regional advocacy and projects as directed by the Zone. |




Option 2 – Board, Regional Bodies

A description of the governance body structure and role for Option 2

| Governance Body | Structure | Role |
|---|---|---|
|  Board | <p>11 members: 8 representative members elected from and by the Regional Bodies (4 Metro, 4 Country). The Board then elect the President from the representative members. The Board will appoint up to 3 independent, skills or constituency directors.</p> | <p>Meet 6 times per year responsible for governance of WALGA including strategy, financial oversight, policy development, advocacy priorities, employment of CEO, etc.</p> |
|  Regional Bodies | <p>Metro: North, South, East and Central.</p> <p>Country: Mining & Pastoral, Agricultural, Peel/South West/Great Southern, Regional Capitals.</p> <p><i>Note: Local Governments can nominate their preferred regional body, with membership of the regional bodies to be determined by the board.</i></p> | <p>Meet at least 2 times per year to contribute to policy development and advocacy, and to elect Board members (1 from each of the Metro Regional Bodies and 1 from each of the Country Regional Bodies).</p> |
|  Policy Teams / Forums / Committees | <p>Membership drawn from the Board and Regional Bodies with some independent members.</p> | <p>Responsible for specific functions – such as policy development – as determined by the Board.</p> |




Option 3 – Board, Amalgamated Zones

A description of the governance body structure and role for Option 3

| Governance Body | Structure | Role |
|---|--|--|
|  Board | 15 members: 12 elected from the Zones (6 from Metro/Peel, 6 from Country). President to be elected by the Board (who will then be replaced by their Zone). The Board will appoint up to 2 independent, skills or constituency directors. | Meet 6 times per year. Responsible for the governance of WALGA including strategy, financial oversight, policy development and endorsement, advocacy priorities, employment of CEO, etc. |
|  Zones | <div><div>Metro/Peel:</div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Central Metropolitan• East Metropolitan• North Metropolitan• South Metropolitan• South East Metropolitan• Peel<div>Country*:</div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wheatbelt South• Wheatbelt North• Mid West / Murchison / Gascoyne• Pilbara / Kimberley• South West / Great Southern• Goldfields / Esperance<div><i>*indicative, re-drawing required</i></div></div> | Meet at least 2 times per year to contribute to policy development and advocacy, and to elect Board members. |
|  Policy Teams / Forums / Committees | Membership drawn from Board with some independent members. | Responsible for specific functions – such as policy development – as determined by the Board. |

Option 4 – Member Elected Board, Regional Groups

A description of the governance body structure and role for Option 4
















| Governance Body | Structure | Role |
|---|--|---|
|  Board | 11 members: 8 representative members elected via direct election, with each member Local Government to vote (4 elected by and from Metropolitan Local Governments, 4 elected by and from Country Local Governments). President elected by the Board from among the representative members. The Board will appoint up to 3 independent, skills or constituency directors. | Meet 6 times per year and responsible for governance of WALGA including strategy, financial oversight, policy development and endorsement, advocacy priorities, employment of CEO, etc. |
|  Policy Teams / Forums / Committees | Membership drawn from Board with some independent members. | Meet at least 2 times per year. Responsible for specific functions – such as contributing to policy development – as determined by the Board. |
|  Regional Groups | Determined by members to suit needs. E.g. Regional Capitals, GAPP, VROCs, CEO Group, existing Zones. | Feed into policy development processes and undertake advocacy and projects as determined by the groups. |

Option 5 – Current Model

A description of the governance body structure and roles for the Current Model

| Governance Body | Structure | Role |
|---|---|--|
|  State Council | 24 members plus the President. Members elected by and from the Zones (12 from 5 Metropolitan Zones, 12 from 12 Country Zones). | Responsible for the governance of WALGA including strategy, financial oversight, policy development and endorsement, advocacy, employment of CEO, etc. |
|  Zones | 5 Metro, 12 Country. | Consider the State Council Agenda, elect State Councillors, and undertake regional advocacy / projects as directed by the Zone. |
|  Policy Teams / Forums / Committees | Membership drawn from State Council with some independent members. | Responsible for specific functions – such as contributing to policy development, financial oversight etc. – as determined by State Council. |

Options and Current Model

| Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 | Option 4 | Option 5 |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| Two tier model, existing Zones <div>  <p>Board (11 members) 8 elected from Policy Council, incl. Board elected President Up to 3 independents</p> </div> <div>  <p>Policy Council (25 members) 24 members plus President</p> </div> <div>  <p>Zones (5 metro, 12 country)</p> </div> | Board, Regional Bodies <div>  <p>Board (11 members) 8 elected from Regional Bodies, incl. Board elected President Up to 3 independents</p> </div> <div>  <p>Regional Bodies (4 metro, 4 country)</p> </div> <div>  <p>Policy Teams / Forums / Committees</p> </div> | Board, Amalgamated Zones <div>  <p>Board (15 members) 12 elected from Zones, incl. Board elected President Up to 2 independents</p> </div> <div>  <p>Zones (6 metro, 6 country)</p> </div> <div>  <p>Policy Teams / Forums / Committees</p> </div> | Member elected Board, Regional Groups <div>  <p>Board (11 members) 8 elected via direct election, incl. Board elected President Up to 3 independents</p> </div> <div>  <p>Policy Teams / Forums / Committees</p> </div> <div>  <p>Regional Groups</p> </div> | Current Model <div>  <p>State Council (25 members) 24 State Councillors 1 President</p> </div> <div>  <p>Zones (5 metro, 12 country)</p> </div> <div>  <p>Policy Teams / Forums / Committees</p> </div> |

Consultation, Next Steps and Timeline



Consultation Process and Next Steps

Consultation Process

Council Position

Member Local Governments are asked to consider this paper and the governance model options put forward and provide a Council endorsed position to WALGA.

It is suggested that Councils endorse a preferred model (which could be the Current Model) and provide a ranking in terms of an order of preference.

Submissions to WALGA are sought by **23 December 2022**.

Supplementary Market Research

An independent market research company has been engaged to ascertain insights from Elected Members and Chief Executive Officers about WALGA's governance model. Qualitative interviews and a quantitative survey will be undertaken to supplement Council positions.

Workshops and Forums

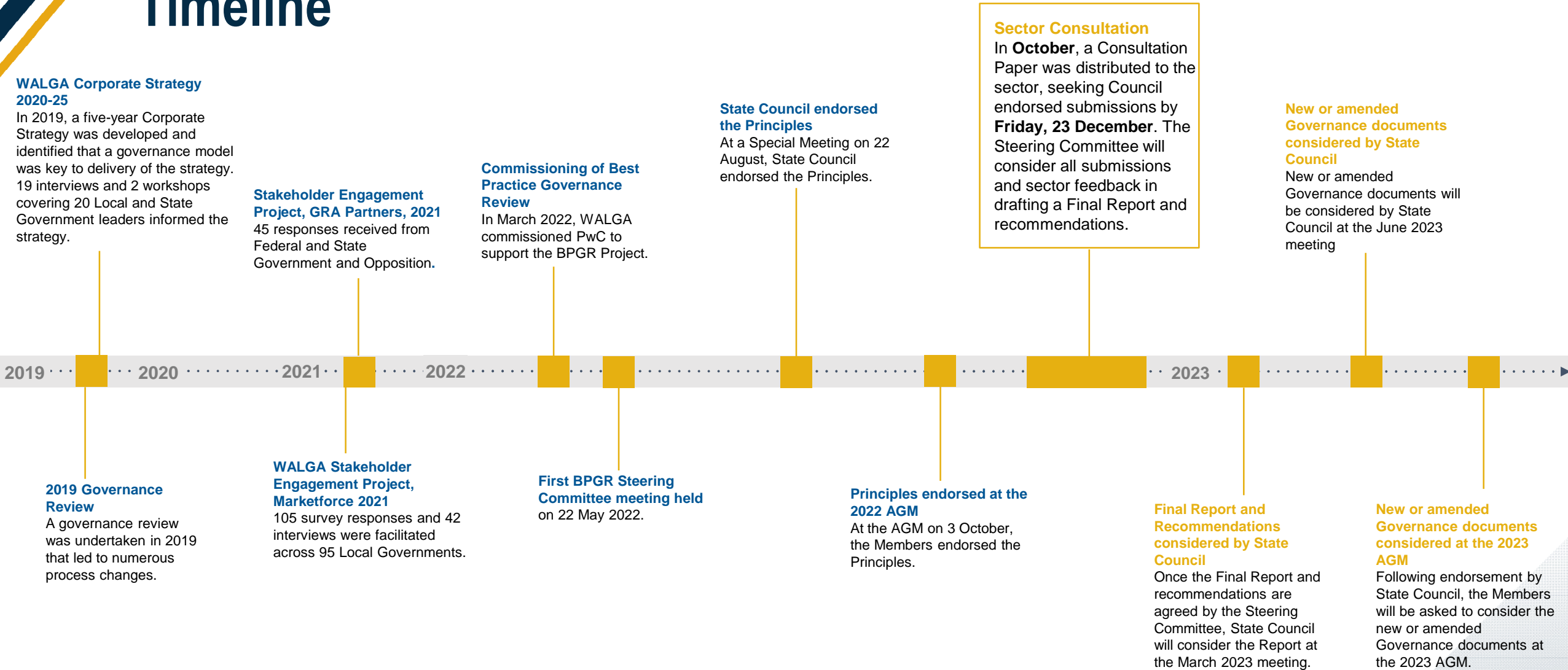
Requests for presentations on the work undertaken by the Steering Committee and the model options, as well as facilitation of workshops and discussions will be accommodated where practicable.

Next Steps

Timetable

- Consultation and engagement with Members on this paper and governance model options will be undertaken from October 2022 until 23 December 2022.
- The Steering Committee will consider the outcomes of the consultation process during January 2023.
- A Final Report with a recommended direction will be the subject of a State Council Agenda item for the March 2023 State Council meeting.

Timeline



The background of the slide is a photograph of a dirt road winding through a forest of tall, slender trees with light-colored bark. A large, semi-transparent Walga logo is centered in the upper right. The logo consists of a stylized 'W' and 'A' formed by several overlapping triangles, with the word 'WALGA' in a serif font below it. A dark blue diagonal band runs from the top left to the bottom right, containing the text 'Thank you' and contact information. A thin yellow line runs parallel to the blue band.

Thank you

For more information, visit our [website](#) or contact Tim Lane, Manager Association and Corporate Governance, at tlane@walga.asn.au or 9213 2029.



Total Fire Bans & Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans

Attachment 2

Regulation and Compliance Branch

Department of Fire & Emergency Services






DFES incident photographer
Sean Blocksidge

Total Fire Bans

- Total Fire Bans (TFB) are declared on days when fires are most likely to threaten lives and property
- Forecast extreme weather or widespread fires impacting firefighting resources form part of the decision-making process to determine if a total fire ban should be declared
- DFES State Operations determine when and where a TFB will be declared
- Under the new AFDRS a Fire Behaviour Index of 50 will be the new trigger for TFBs across the State



DFES Incident
Photographer
Sean Blocksidge

Why is it important to understand TFB rules?

- A bushfire during extreme weather conditions can have devastating effects
- Communities are left dealing with the aftermath for years to come
- Educating the community about TFB rules reduces the risk of fires starting when weather conditions mean they will be difficult (or impossible) to control
- Most people who breach a TFB claim they weren't aware of the rules
- Understanding the risks makes for better decision making!

Total Fire Bans - *the law*

Section 22B(2) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*

The general public are banned from lighting a fire or carrying out an activity that causes or is likely to cause a fire (in the open air) when a total fire ban has been declared

Section 22B(2) *Bush Fires Act 1954* - Penalties

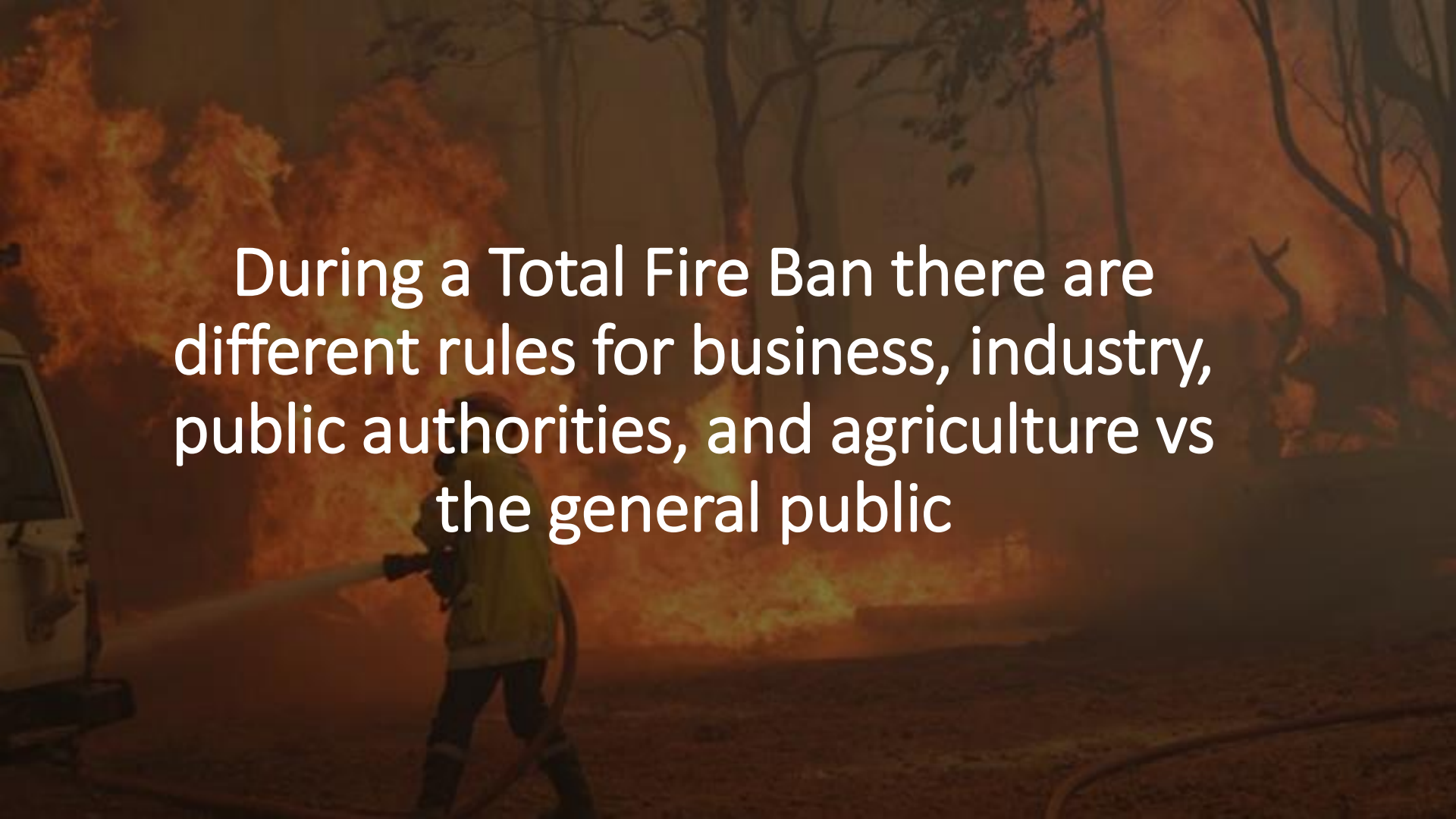
Serious Breaches - \$25,000 fine and/or jail term of 12 months

Applies to anyone who breaches a TFB - member of public, or as a result of business activity


\$1000 infringement introduced in 2018 - issued on the spot or at a later date

Legal action can be undertaken by DFES, Local Government, DBCA or Police





During a Total Fire Ban there are different rules for business, industry, public authorities, and agriculture vs the general public



What the public can not do during a TFB

- Light a fire including a campfire, wood fueled BBQ, pizza oven
- Burn garden refuse
- Drive a vehicle off-road over paddocks or bushland or over any land which contains vegetation
- Hot work (welding or grinding) in an area that is not fully enclosed by a building or structure
- Mow the lawn, use a slasher, whipper snipper operated by an internal combustion engine

What can business, industry & public authorities do during a TFB?



AS LONG AS REGULATIONS ARE COMPLIED WITH, THEY CAN CONTINUE TO CARRY OUT THE FOLLOWING:

- Hot work (welding & grinding)
- Road work (grading and bituminising)
- Drive off-road over vegetation
- Earth moving, land clearing on land with vegetation
- Mow lawns as part of a business
- Use wood fueled cooking appliances or cook with an open flame as part of a catering business, including pizza ovens
- Blasting
- Gas flaring
- Use fireworks (exemption required)
- Rail grinding (exemption required)
- Power restoration (exemption required)



What agricultural activities can continue during a TFB?

- Agricultural activities can continue during a TFB in relation to *off-road activity* i.e. harvesting, slashing, using a generator, clearing land, driving vehicles over paddocks
- Once a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban (HVMB) is issued by the local government under regulation 24C of the *Bush Fires Regulations 1954* during a TFB, ***off-road agricultural activity is banned*** for the period specified in the notice
- *****Note: work occurring on land which is clear of vegetation is not impacted by a HVMB or a TFB i.e. generators can be used on cleared areas***



Photo by Senior Firefighter
Walmsley

| NUMBER OF TOTAL FIRE BAN DECLARATIONS PER FIRE SEASON | | | | | | |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| LOCAL GOVERNMENT | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 |
| Shire of Merredin | 2 | 4 | 2 | 13 | 12 | 7 |
| Shire of Yilgarn | 2 | 6 | 4 | 13 | 14 | 12 |
| Shire of Kellerberrin | 2 | 4 | 2 | 13 | 12 | 7 |
| Shire of Bruce Rock | 2 | 4 | 2 | 13 | 12 | 7 |
| Shire of Wyalkatchem | 2 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 14 | 7 |
| Shire of Narembeen | 1 | 4 | 2 | 13 | 12 | 7 |
| Mount Marshall | 1 | 5 | 4 | 12 | 12 | 10 |
| Shire of Greater Geraldton | 6 | 3 | 14 | 19 | 20 | 42 |
| City of Swan | 4 | 0 | 5 | 18 | 22 | 24 |
| Shire of Gingin | 4 | 0 | 5 | 18 | 22 | 25 |
| Shire of Esperance | 4 | 3 | 8 | 13 | 7 | 5 |

Snapshot of Total Fire Ban declarations for different local government areas within Great Eastern Country Zone (and comparison to others (green rows)).

**To find out a regions historic TFB declarations visit:
www.dfes.wa.gov.au/documents/TFB-Declarations-2015-2021.pdf**

Business, industry & public authorities *online notification* during a total fire ban

Regulations require that business, industry, and public authorities notify DFES and the local government during a TFB *before the work starts* i.e. clearing vegetation, welding, grinding

Both DFES and the local government area (LGA) i.e. Shire, Town, City have access to review the information

An email address is nominated by each LGA and DFES region to receive the notifications

The notification means that during a TFB LGAs and DFES have visibility of *who is doing what work and where* in their region during a TFB

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the 'ticket' website. The page has a blue header with the 'ticket' logo and navigation links: Home, Statutes, Events, Tools, Reports, and Documents. Below the header, there is a section titled 'Australia/Queensland: 11 Aug 2011 01:01PM TFBs Manager'. The main content area contains a form titled 'NOTIFICATION FOR UNDERTAKING EXCEPTED ACTIVITY'. The form includes fields for 'Company Name', 'Australian Business Number (ABN)', and 'Trading Name', each with a red asterisk indicating a required field. A small text block above the form explains the purpose of the notification and mentions the Bush Fires Act 1954.

Online notification statistics – Number of online notifications received for the Great Eastern Country Zone 2021-22

- Since the introduction of the online notification system in November 2019 a total of **11,025** notifications have been received through the online form across the state during declared total fire bans.

| Great Eastern Country Zone TFB online notifications 2021-22 | |
|---|-----------|
| Activity during a total fire ban | Total |
| Hot Work Activity | 18 |
| Road Work Activity | 11 |
| Off-road Activity | 11 |
| Working under DFES issued Exemption Notice | 8 |
| Off-road Activity and Working under DFES issued Exemption | 7 |
| Hot Work Activity and Off-road Activity | 5 |
| Hot Work Activity and Blasting Activity | 3 |
| Blasting Activity | 2 |
| Hot Work Activity, Off-road Activity, and Working under DFES issued Exemption | 1 |
| Hot Work Activity and Road Work Activity | 1 |
| Hot Work Activity, Blasting Activity, and Off-road Activity | 1 |
| Grand Total | 68 |



DFES
Department of Fire &
Emergency Services

Accessibility
Contact Us

Fire or life threatening emergencies: **000**

Emergency Information: **13 3337**

SES Emergency Assistance: **132 500**



TOTAL FIRE BAN

Current Fire Bans

TFB Prescribed Activity
Notification Form

Bushfire overview

Prepare for a bushfire

During a bushfire

Recovering from a bushfire

Bushfire Centre of Excellence

Bushfire prone areas

Total fire ban

Planned burning

Rural and farm fire

At Risk Communities Program

What is a TFB?

Penalties

FAQs

Exemptions

Notification form

Has a ban been declared?

Resources

Where can I find out more about TFBs?

DFES Total Fire Ban web page
www.dfes.wa.gov.au/site/bushfire/totalfirebans.html



Link to
Emergency
WA



Link to TFB
online
notification
form for
business &
industry



TFB
frequently
asked
questions



TFB
exemption
information



Information
on how to
check if a
TFB has
been
declared



TFB fact
sheets
(business
and
industry)

EmergencyWA

PREPARE WARNINGS & INCIDENTS

List Both Map Filter

Locate Me kalamunda

TYPE

UPDATED

Fire Danger Rating view and filter for next days rating (available after 4pm)

Central Pilbara High Today

North Pilbara Moderate Today

Gascoyne High Today

Gascoyne Moderate Today

Yalgar High Today

West Interior High Today

Central Interior Moderate Today

Legend

Map

EmergencyWA

PREPARE WARNINGS & INCIDENTS

List Both Map Filter

Locate Me Search address...

TYPE

UPDATED

Total Fire Bans TODAY

Armadale Total Fire Bans are declared for today 30 minutes ago

Bassendean Total Fire Bans are declared for today

Bayswater Total Fire Bans are declared for today

Belmont Total Fire Bans are declared for today 30 minutes ago

Cambridge Total Fire Bans are declared for today 30 minutes ago

Map Legend

Map

Fire Danger Rating view and filter for next days rating (available after 5.00pm)

How to find out if a total fire ban has been declared.

- www.emergency.wa.gov.au/#totalfirebans
- www.emergency.wa.gov.au/#cap-rss



Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans (HVMB)

Bush Fires Regulations 1954
r.24C and r.38A

There are two types of HVMBs and they have different rules and different penalties.

Both types of bans are issued by a Local Government's Bush Fire Control Officer.

HVMB Type 1: During a total fire ban
Bush Fires Regulations 1954
r.24C

When can a ban be issued by the local government under r.24C?

- A *TFB* has been declared and the Bush Fire Control Officer (BFCO) is satisfied the use or operation of the engine, vehicle, plant, equipment or machinery operated by an internal combustion engine being operated *off-road* is likely to cause or contribute to the spread of a bush fire.
- When a TFB is declared the BFCO must impose a ban under r.24C when the Fire Behaviour Index (FBI) *is or exceeds 40*.
- During the hottest/highest risk period for the day and/or while the FBI is 40 or above.
- The period of the ban must be specified in the notice and must be published via radio broadcast and if practical in writing.



What is considered *off-road* under r.24C?

- **ACTIVITY:** Using anything operated by an internal combustion engine on land where there is *bush, crop pasture or stubble*.
- **OFF-ROAD:** land which contains vegetation (alive or dead).



Examples of *off-road activities* **BANNED** where a r.24C HVMB is issued

- Harvesting
- Electricity service providers if the ***work is not considered urgent*** and involves *off-road activity*.
- Mining exploration on land not cleared of vegetation
- Drill rigs operated on land not cleared of vegetation
- Generators operated on land not cleared of vegetation
- Clearing land of vegetation including clearing as part of road work activities
- Driving over paddocks which contain vegetation
- Tree lopping services (unless classed as urgent work by an essential service provider)
- Slashing road verges
- Lawn mowing by lawn mowing businesses



What is NOT considered off-road under the regulations?

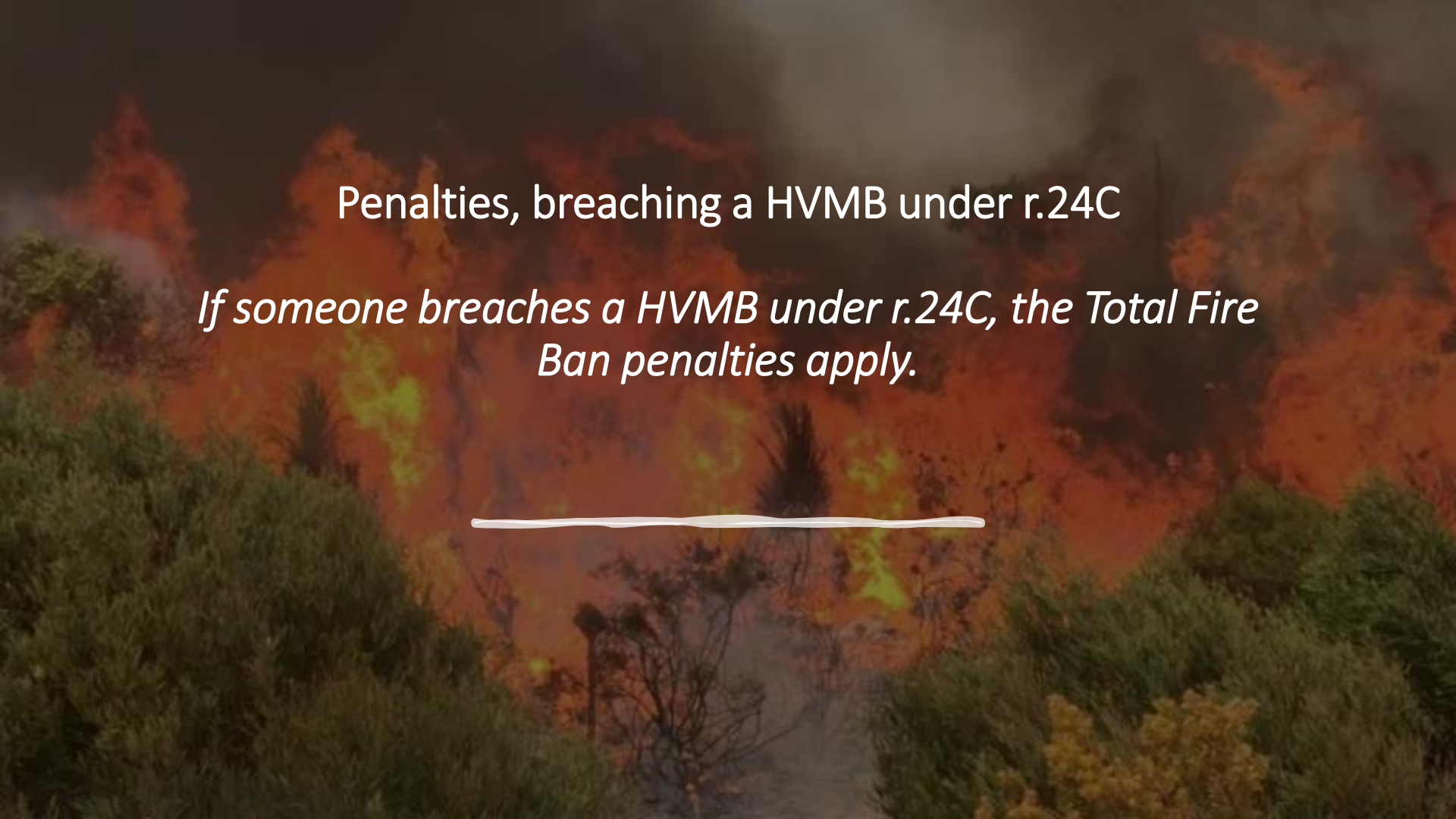
- Operating equipment with an internal combustion engine on land where there is **no vegetation** is NOT considered *off-road* under the total fire ban legislation or under r.24C (HVMB).
- The images depicted are activities that *are* allowed as the land being worked on does not contain vegetation.
- These activities are **not impacted by a total fire ban or a HVMB during a TFB** as the areas are not considered *off-road* under the TFB legislation.



Quick Note on *Road Work*

- While road work (*grading and bituminising*) is allowed during a total fire ban and cannot be banned when a HVMB is issued during a TFB, the *grading and bituminising equipment* must have a 5m radius clear from flammable material to operate.
- If the road work site/activity does not allow for a 5m radius, the work *cannot* be carried out during a TFB.
- The grading activity depicted here would not be allowed during a TFB.
- Clearing of land (vegetation) as part of road construction would fall under *off-road activity* and *would be banned* by a HVMB.





Penalties, breaching a HVMB under r.24C

If someone breaches a HVMB under r.24C, the Total Fire Ban penalties apply.

HVMB Type 2:
Banning the use of
engines, vehicles,
plant or machinery
during the *limited
burning times* r.38A



When can the local government Bush Fire Control Officer issue a ban under r.38A?

- This HVMB is issued during the restricted and prohibited burning times (RPBT) and where no total fire ban has been declared.
- The BFCO issues the ban when they need to regulate the use of engines, vehicles, plant or machinery *because they are of the opinion there is a risk their use may cause a bushfire or be conducive to the spread of a bushfire.*
- The ban is usually issued for the hottest/highest risk part of the day. The time-frame for the ban must be specified in the notice and in any radio announcement and/or written publication of the ban.
- There is no legislative requirement to issue a ban under r.38A where the FBI exceeds 40, however BFCOs may elect to do so.

Penalties, breaching a HVMB under r.38A

- *Court process \$5,000 fine*
- *Infringement \$250*





**Thank you
for your
time,
questions?**

For assistance & more information:

DFES Regulation and Compliance Branch

Tanya Ramponi

Acting Manager Regulation and Compliance

Email: tanya.ramponi@dfes.wa.gov.au | Phone: 9395 9359 Mobile: 0419 627 438

Regulation and Compliance Branch Team Email: regulation.compliance@dfes.wa.gov.au

Regulation and Compliance Branch Team Line: 08 9395 9911



Australian Government



mainroads
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Attachment 3

Main Roads Report Great Eastern Country Zone

November 2022

| Road | Between | SLK Range | Activity | Main Roads Contact | Contractor | Contractor Contact |
|--|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Great Eastern Hwy | Merredin | 254.17 – 258.28 | Pavement Repairs | Aziz Mohamed | Downer | Chris Hann |
| Works are due for completion by 15 December 2022. | | | | | | |
| Great Eastern Hwy | Walgoolan Bridge | 290.66 - 293.50 | Bridge Replacement | Dileep Pokharel / Bronwyn Roberts | Highway Construction | Michael Healy |
| | Moorine Rock Bridge | 339.66 – 340.86 | Bridge Widening | | | |
| Walgoolan Bridge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetation clearing complete and side track installed. • Embankment works are within 600mm of final level and are due for competition in December 2022/January 2023. • Installation of piles, TeeRoff beams and deck cast on site due to commence in December 2022 and be completed in June 2023. • Bridge works are still awaiting approval from ARC to install temporary works. • Roadworks due to be completed in Mar 2023. | | | | | | |
| Moorine Rock Bridge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridge works will commence 1 December 2022. | | | | | | |
| All works are due for completion in June 2023. | | | | | | |
| Great Eastern Hwy | Coates Gully | 58.5 – 65.4 | Bridge replacement with culvert | Vincent Vercraeije | Decmil Southern | Phil Pabedinskas |
| Works are due for completion in February 2023. | | | | | | |

Wheatbelt Maintenance Transition

48 staff members were welcomed to the Wheatbelt Region as part of the State Government's commitment to create 660 new permanent, local, Western Australian jobs (490 Regional and 170 Metropolitan) by transitioning road maintenance and some minor capital works back in-house, to Main Roads.

The transition was celebrated with a small breakfast event, attended by the Minister for Transport, Hon Rita Saffioti MLA, Director General Transport Peter Woronzow and a number of Main Roads staff.

The 48 staff members will be based in Northam and Narrogin and be responsible for the delivery of routine maintenance and some minor road work improvements.

Media coverage:

- Media statement > [First tranche of in-house road maintenance delivery begins today](#)
- GWN's news coverage > [GovNews](#)
- ABC's radio coverage and talk-back segments > [GovNews](#), [GovNews - talkback 1](#), [GovNews - talkback 2](#), [GovNews - talkback 3](#)
- Premier's Facebook page > [Mark McGowan | West Perth WA | Facebook](#)
- Minister's Facebook post > [Rita Saffioti MLA | Facebook](#)



Australian Government



mainroads
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

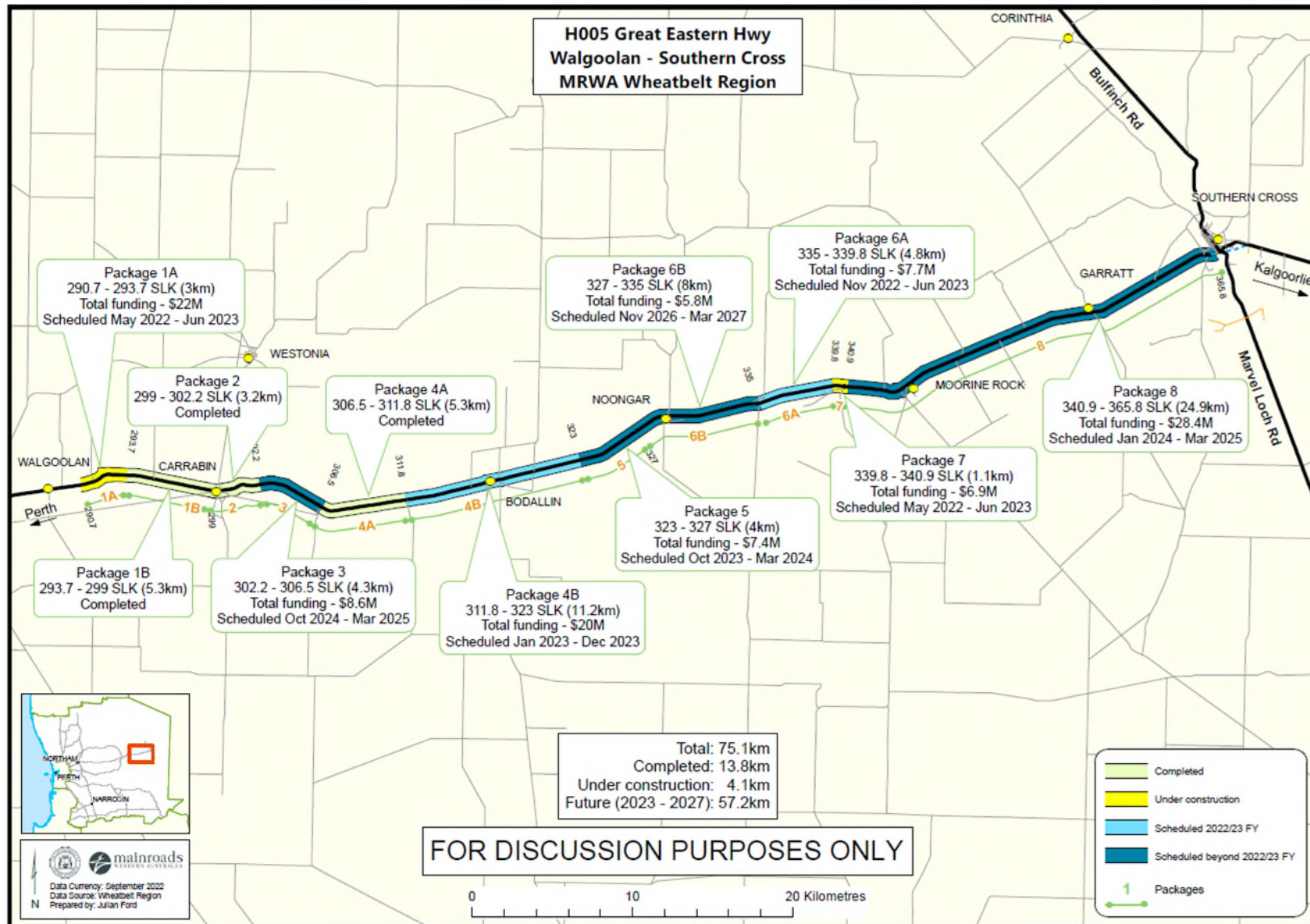
BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Attachment 3

Main Roads Report Great Eastern Hwy Upgrades

November 2022

Great Eastern Hwy - Walgoolan Southern Cross (SLK 290 – SLK 365.8)



- Packages 1AA – 2km roadworks complete.
- Package 1A and 7 - Widening overlay and seal 6km and replace Bridges 629 & 630A – Works commenced in May 22 and anticipated to complete June 23.

Walgoolan Bridge

- Side track and vegetation clearing complete
- Embankment works - December 2022/January 2023
- Installation of piles, TeeRoff beams and deck cast on site - December 2022 – June 2023
- Roadworks due to be complete Mar 2023

Moorine Rock Bridge

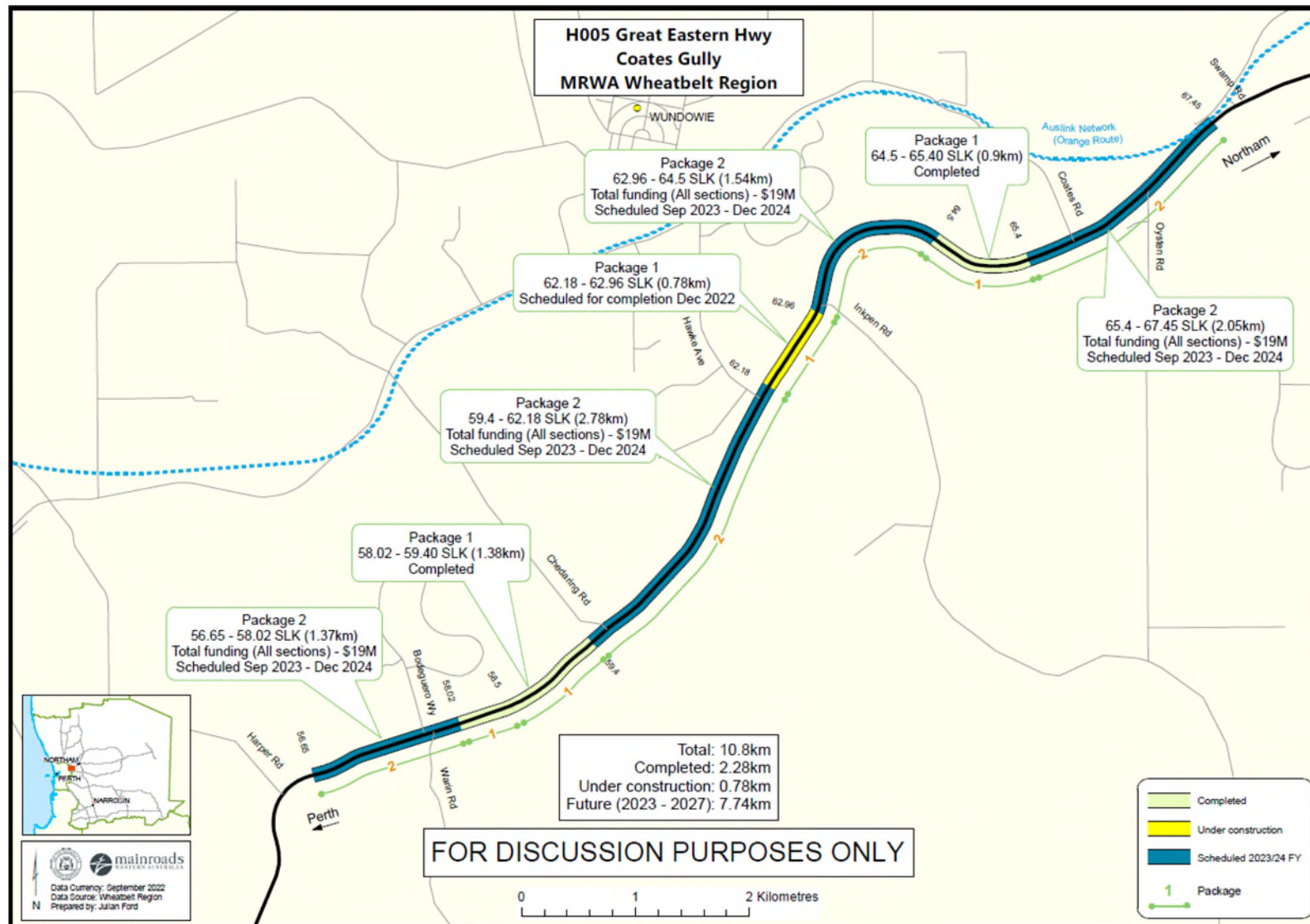
- Vegetation clearing complete
- Embankment works - Dec 2022
- Bridge widening and roadworks – Jan – June 2023 (lane closures and speed reduction)
- Package 4B and 5 – (widening, overlay and seal 15km) – Tender advertised, expecting contract award in Jan 2023 and construction to commence Mar 23 to May 24.
 - Upgrade of 15 kilometres between Stephen Road and 2 kilometres West of Noongar South Road in the Shire of Yilgarn
 - Minor upgrade of intersections at Penton Road, Ivey Road, Blyth Road, Bodallin South Road and Bodallin North Road
 - Bodallin townsite upgrades
 - New 2-kilometre east-bound passing lane between Bodallin and Moirine Rock
 - A new west-bound rest area between Bodallin and Moirine Rock
- Package 3, 6A, 6B and 8 – (widening, overlay and seal 45km) - design complete, minor land and services relocation in progress, delivery scheduled for 23/24 onwards.
 - Covalent Lithium - Parker Range Road intersection with Great Eastern Highway - Upgrade design is currently in progress. The intersection upgrade falls within the Package 8 and delivery scheduled in Jan 2024 onwards.
 - Package 6A - design complete, delivery scheduled in 22/23 and 23/24.

Great Eastern Hwy - Coates Gully Replace Bridge Replacements 605, 606 & 607 (SLK 58 – SLK 66)

- Br 605 and 607 – Works complete.
- Bridge 606 – Construction commenced early Oct after winter suspension and schedule to complete by Jan 23.

Great Eastern Hwy - Coates Gully Stage 2 Roadworks (SLK 56.3 – SLK 68)

- Services relocation designs and environmental approvals are in progress. Construction in 23/24.



Goldfields-Esperance Region

Realignment, reconstruction, widening and overlay of GEH in the following sections.

Great Eastern Highway - Ghooli Stage 1 - SLK 378.38 to 395.00

- The design has been completed and environmental and heritage approvals have been obtained. The section has been tendered and contract awarded. Works are expected to commence in late October 2022.

Great Eastern Highway - Ghooli Stage 2 - SLK 367.30 to 378.38

- The detailed design and environmental approvals are underway. Heritage approval has been obtained. Works on this section are expected to commence in mid 2023.

Great Eastern Highway - Karalee Section - SLK 395.00 to 414.50

- The detailed design, environmental and heritage approvals are underway. The section is expected to be tendered in February 2024 with works commencing in July 2024.

Great Eastern Highway – Mt Palmer Section - SLK 414.50 to 432.00

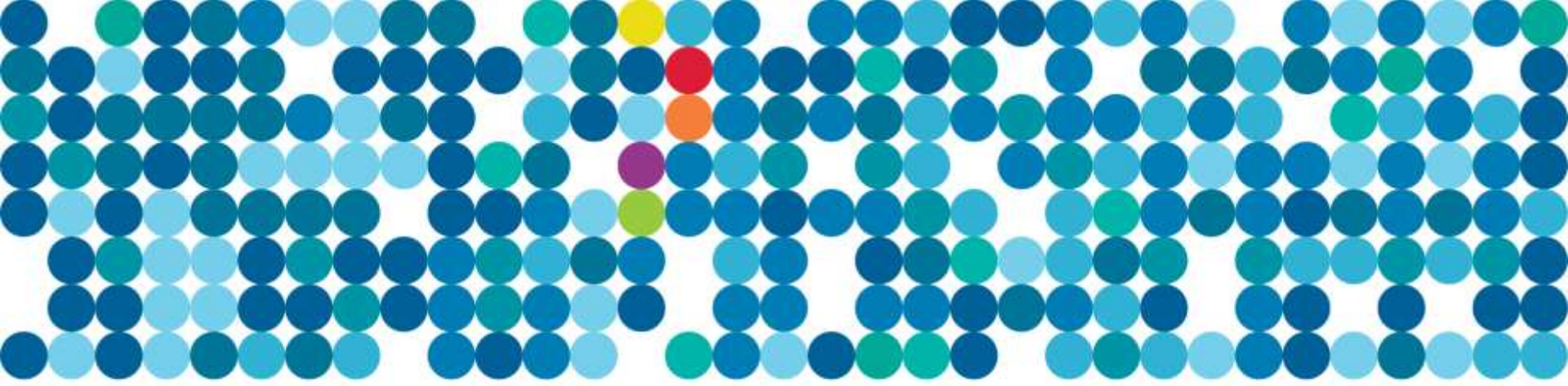
- The detailed design, environmental and heritage approvals are underway. The section is expected to be tendered in February 2025 with works commencing in July 2025.

Great Eastern Highway - Boondi Section - SLK 432.00 to 456.12

- The design scope for consultants is currently being completed. Environmental and heritage approvals are currently being arranged. The section is expected to be tendered in February 2027 with works commencing in July 2027.

Great Eastern Highway - Benari Section - SLK 497.92 to 511.50

- The design scope for consultants is currently being completed. Environmental and heritage approvals are currently being arranged. The section is expected to be tendered in February 2026 with works commencing in July 2026.



Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting

Rebecca Bowler- Manager- Customer & Stakeholder

Goldfields & Agricultural Region

0409 293 618

28 November 2022

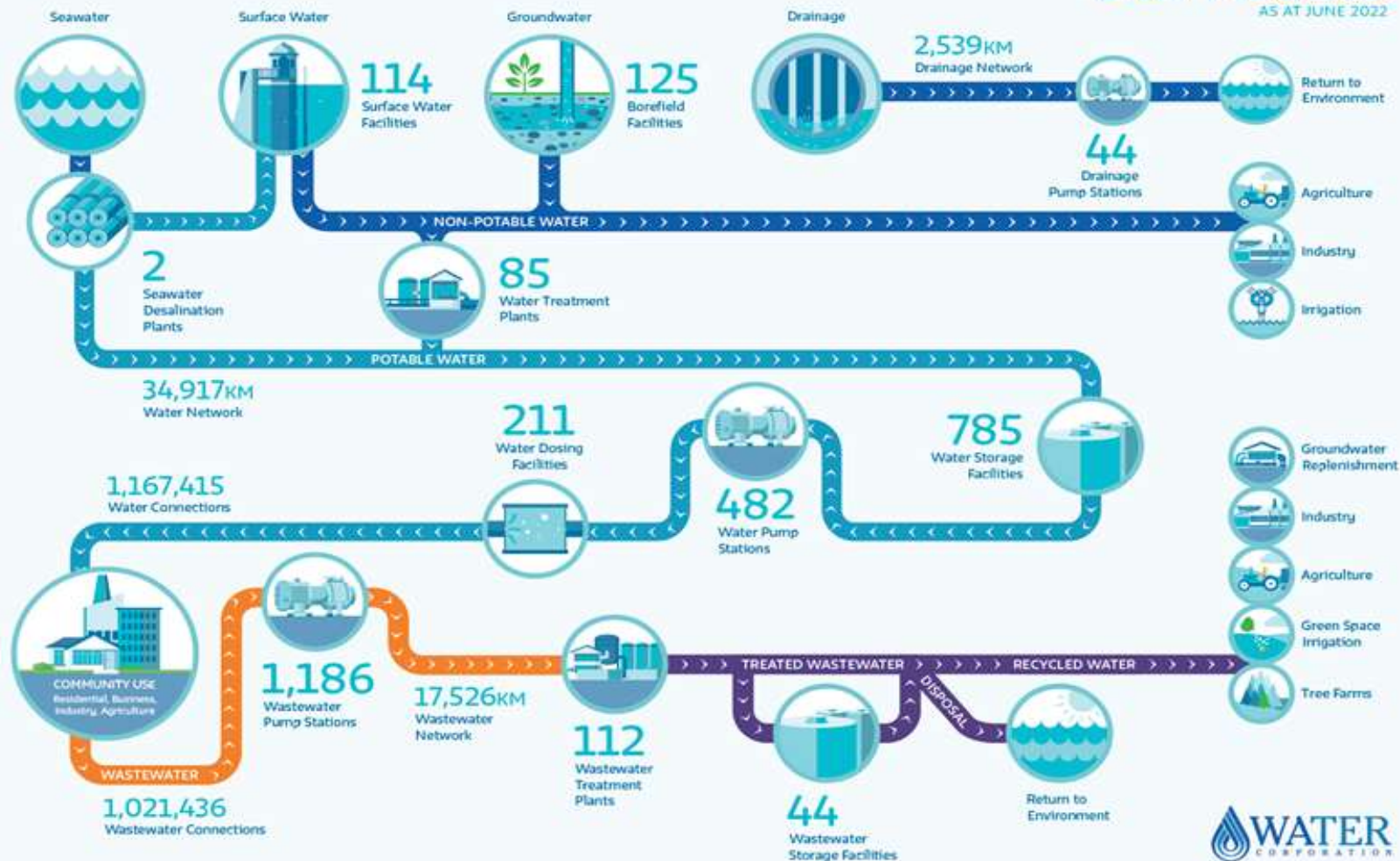
Attachment 4

Think climate change.
Be waterwise.



Our Assets

AS AT JUNE 2022



Farmlands

- \$35 million already committed across GAR & MW region- improve water supply ~65km
- 7/10 stages complete, 8th stage underway
 - Minnivale (136m- 2 locations)
 - Kellerberrin (300m- 3 sites)
 - Nungarin (2830m- 7 sites)
 - Perenjori Bowgada Farmlands- Morowa (7500m- 2 sites)
- 2 more stages to be delivered by end of 2025
- 5 year rolling renewal program established
- 3756km network expected to reach end of life between now and 2030



KN7- Trayning



LD3- Bruce Rock



Dowerin

Think climate
Be waterwise



Shire of Yilgarn

- Dedari 32 ML roofed ground level water tank is now operational
 - \$23mill
 - Old reservoir converted to sump for offline maintenance of new tank
- National Trust- ACM remediation of pump station building required
- Marvel Loch- replacement of current tank- 200kL elevated water tank- build due to commence in 2024
 - additional strategic capacity/water quality investigations are being investigated



Shire of Merredin

- 42 ML tank in commissioning phase and now operational
 - \$31mill improved water quality and contingency
- Main conduit upgrade completed
 - Hughes Road reserve- 3.6km length
 - Landowners & occupiers consulted
- Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) planning/design has commenced, working with the Shire of Merredin



Shire of Wyalkatchem



- Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) construction completed
 - New pump station, contact tanks, chlorination facility, access road upgrade
 - Awaiting Western Power power dome installation
 - Genset in place in the meantime



Visual Connect

- Customers in Perth assisting with fault assessment
 - 2019/2020= 8,850 work orders attended and no fault determined
 - Up to 25% of work orders could be avoided or resolved at more appropriate time
- Link sent to customer turns their phone into our “eyes/camera/GPS”
- Roll out to whole of business expected in coming 12- 24 months



Sometimes it can be hard for customers to describe what they're seeing and exactly where they are. Visual Connect takes away this issue as customers live stream their experience for our operators.



Seeing the size and scope of leaks like this one helps our operators determine the best course of action.



Lauren Jones using Visual Connect to see what customers are seeing.

link climate change.
waterwise.





Looking forward

- Investment in current infrastructure- upgrade & optimisation of what we have- GAWS
- Investigation of surrounds for future sources
- Alternate source investigations- new space for WC
 - AA Dams, redundant asset transfer
- New infrastructure, new assets (proponent investment will be crucial)
- Inflation - 20% higher costs - pressure on capital program
- Net Zero targets= Flat Rocks Wind Farm Stage 2 by 2026/27 (30km out of Kojonup)- ¼ of WC energy needs inc. all desalination plants



Welcome to our Thrive2035 Strategic Plan.

Our purpose is to manage water services sustainably to make WA a great place to live and invest.

Our vision is for our people, our communities and our state to thrive.

Today – a need for change



Climate
change



Increasing
community
expectations



Price and cost
pressure



Technological
progress



Demand for
future ready
workforce

Onward – we're taking action

- Create positive environmental impact as our climate changes
- Build meaningful relationships to understand customer needs
- Invest to secure our digital and physical assets and infrastructure
- Identify opportunities to scale our capabilities to develop new projects and customers
- Drive efficiency to finance our vision and free up resources for our key priorities
- Inspire and enable our organisation by building capabilities and improving processes

Six goals to drive us forward



Environmentally
sustainable
as climate
changes



Safe for all



Supporting state
development



Satisfied
customers



Efficient



Great place
to work

What will success look like?

- Net zero carbon footprint
- Universal water access
- Meaningful relationships with customers and community
- Strong relationships with Aboriginal peoples
- Water services partner of choice for state development
- Reduction in total recurring expenditure
- Engaged employees and effective leadership

Major Consumers Framework (MCF) Principles



The Corporation has legislated powers to agree charges and terms with customers instead of regulated charges set by Government.

The agreements we enter into with large water consumers mainly in regional areas aim to recover the cost of providing the service at their location, ensure the risk of stranded assets are managed and ensure they support efficient water use.

The cost based pricing provides commercial pricing signals to assist them in the evaluation of alternate water supply solutions or reduce demand where possible

The framework and modelling is applied consistently for all customers meeting the MCF criteria and provides clear transparent fair and equitable pricing

Major Consumers Framework (MCF)



The Major Consumers Framework (MCF) is a government endorsed pricing methodology for commercial customers, which can include Local Governments. The two main types of consumers under the MCF

Regional Major Consumers > 49 kL/day or > \$2M Present Value (PV) Service Cost

- Term of a Major Consumer Agreement is a customer nominated 10 to 15 years
- Charges have two main components:

Capacity charge is based on the cost of supplying the nominated peak day demand (from source to location) using depreciation and a return on capital method (5.1%)

Water consumption charge per kiloliter that recovers the operating and maintenance cost of supplying the water to the customer's location. Penalty charges apply for water used above the daily entitlement.

Note: MCF is applicable relative to location i.e. for developments >30kL/day= Kambalda or >20kL/day= Norseman.

Mining Customers Up to 49 kL/day

- Simply described as a short term By-law service
- Standard Agreement is 15-years
- Charges have two main components

Capacity charge covers headworks charge based on state-wide Standard Infrastructure Charge regardless of location or scheme cost

Water consumption charge per kiloliter regulated charge for water consumption up to the daily entitlement. Penalty charges apply for water used above the daily entitlement.



Questions
0409 293 618