

State Council Summary Minutes 7 May 2026

Ordinary meeting no. 2 of 2026 of the
Western Australian Local Government
Association State Council
held at the Shire of Pingelly at 10:45am.

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1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1 OPENING

The meeting commenced at 10:51am.

1.2 ATTENDANCE

| | | |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Members | WALGA Deputy President | Chris Antonio (Chair) |
| | Avon-Midland Country Zone | |
| | Central Country Zone | Phillip Blight |
| | Central Metropolitan Zone | Helen Sadler |
| | Central Metropolitan Zone | Paul Kelly |
| | East Metropolitan Zone | Cate McCullough |
| | Gascoyne Country Zone | Matthew Niikkula |
| | Goldfields Esperance Country Zone | Laurene Bonza |
| | Great Eastern Country Zone | Stephen Strange |
| | Great Southern Country Zone | Scott Crosby |
| | Murchison Country Zone | Les Price |
| | North Metropolitan Zone | Lewis Hutton |
| | North Metropolitan Zone | Eman Seif JP |
| | Peel Country Zone | Mike Walmsley |
| | Pilbara Country Zone | Audra Smith |
| | South East Metropolitan Zone | Patrick Hall |
| | South East Metropolitan Zone | Terresa Lynes |
| | South Metropolitan Zone | Daniel Lim (<i>Deputy</i>) |
| | South Metropolitan Zone | Karen Wheatland |
| | South Metropolitan Zone | Chontelle Stone (<i>Deputy</i>) |
| | South West Country Zone | Donelle Buegge |
| Secretariat | Chief Executive Officer | Nick Sloan |
| | Executive Manager Member Services | Kirsty Martin |
| | Executive Manager Policy | Nicole Matthews |
| | Executive Manger Advocacy | Rachel Horton |
| | Chief Financial Officer | Rick Murray |
| | Manager Association and Corporate Governance | Kathy Robertson |
| | Policy Manager Environment and Waste | Rebecca Brown |
| | Policy Manager Community | Hannah Godsave |
| | State Council Governance Officer | Habiba Farrag |
| Observers | Shire of Pingelly | President Cr Jackie McBurney |
| | | CEO Mr Andrew Dover |
| | Shire of Wandering | President Cr Sheryl Little |
| | | Cr Peter Latham |
| | | CEO Dr Alistair Pinto |

1.3 APOLOGIES

| | | |
|--------------------|---|---|
| Members | WALGA President East Metropolitan Zone East Metropolitan Zone East Metropolitan Zone Kimberley Country Zone North Metropolitan Zone North Metropolitan Zone North Metropolitan Zone Northern Country Zone South Metropolitan Zone South Metropolitan Zone | Mark Irwin Paige McNeil Brooke O'Donnell (<i>Deputy</i>) Rod Henderson (<i>Deputy</i>) Chris Mitchell JP Suzanne Migdale Russ Fishwick (<i>Deputy</i>) Bronwyn Smith (<i>Deputy</i>) Elizabeth Sudlow Barry Winmar Robert Schmidt |
| Ex Officio | The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor – City of Perth Local Government Professionals WA President | Lord Mayor, Bruce Reynolds Mr Anthony Vuleta |
| Secretariat | Executive Manager Infrastructure Manager Governance and Procurement Member Services Executive Administrator | Ian Duncan Felicity Morris Sammy Jones |

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

WALGA acknowledges the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community. We embrace the vast Aboriginal cultural diversity throughout Western Australia, including Pingeculling (Pingelly), on the land of the Willman Noongar People, where WALGA is located and we acknowledge and pay respect to Elders past and present.

WALGA is committed to supporting the efforts of WA Local Governments to foster respectful partnerships and strengthen relationships with local Aboriginal communities.

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nil.

4 MINUTES

4.1 MINUTES OF THE STATE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 4 MARCH 2026

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Phil Blight
Seconded: Audra Smith

That the Minutes of the WALGA State Council meeting held on [4 March 2026](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

RESOLUTION 017.2/2026

CARRIED

4.1.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE STATE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 4 MARCH 2026

Nil.

4.2 FLYING MINUTE – INQUIRY INTO AUSTRALIA'S AVIATION SECTOR

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Phil Blight
Seconded: Audra Smith

That the [Flying Minute – Inquiry into Australia's Aviation Sector](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of decision.

RESOLUTION 017.2/2026

CARRIED

4.2.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE - INQUIRY INTO AUSTRALIA'S AVIATION SECTOR

Nil.

4.3 FLYING MINUTE – WESTERN POWER ACCESS ARRANGEMENT 6 FRAMEWORK AND APPROACH

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Phil Blight
Seconded: Audra Smith

That the [Flying Minute – Western Power Access Arrangement 6 Framework and Approach](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of decision.

RESOLUTION 017.2/2026

CARRIED

4.3.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE – WESTERN POWER ACCESS ARRANGEMENT 6 FRAMEWORK AND APPROACH

Nil.

4.4 FLYING MINUTE – SUBMISSION ON THE MULTICULTURAL ACT FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Phil Blight
Seconded: Audra Smith

That the [Flying Minute – Submission on the Multicultural Act for Western Australia](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of decision.

RESOLUTION 017.2/2026

CARRIED

4.4.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE – SUBMISSION ON THE MULTICULTURAL ACT FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Nil.

4.5 FLYING MINUTE – DFES BUSHFIRE PLACE OF LAST RESORT GUIDELINE DISCUSSION PAPER

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Phil Blight
Seconded: Audra Smith

That the [Flying Minute – DFES Bushfire Place of Last Resort Guideline Discussion Paper](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of decision.

RESOLUTION 017.2/2026

CARRIED

4.5.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE – DFES BUSHFIRE PLACE OF LAST RESORT GUIDELINE DISCUSSION PAPER

Nil.

4.6 FLYING MINUTE – DRAFT RENEWABLE ENERGY PLANNING CODE SUBMISSION

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Phil Blight
Seconded: Audra Smith

That the [Flying Minute – Draft Renewable Energy Planning Code Submission](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of decision.

RESOLUTION 017.2/2026

CARRIED

4.6.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE – DRAFT RENEWABLE ENERGY PLANNING CODE SUBMISSION

Nil.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

- Karen Wheatland declared an interest in item 8.5 – Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Wind-up.
- Paul Kelly declared an interest in item 8.12 – LGISWA Board Appointments – CONFIDENTIAL.

6 EX OFFICIO REPORTS

6.1 CITY OF PERTH REPORT

Lord Mayor, Bruce Reynolds, was an apology for this meeting.

6.2 LG PROFESSIONALS REPORT

Mr Anthony Vuleta, President, LG Professionals WA, was an apology for this meeting.

7 EMERGING ISSUES

Notification of emerging issues must be provided to the Chair no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Nil.

8 MATTERS FOR DECISION

8.1 PROTECTING COUNCIL MEMBER AND EMPLOYEE PRIVACY ADVOCACY POSITION

By Meghan Dwyer, Governance Specialist

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Helen Sadler
Seconded: Karen Wheatland

That State Council endorse the following new Advocacy Position:

Protecting Council Member and Employee Privacy

That WALGA advocates to the State Government to:

- 1. Undertake a review of disclosure requirements for Local Government Council Members and employees under the Local Government Act 1995,***
- 2. Undertake the necessary legislative amendments to strike an appropriate balance between transparency, personal safety, and contemporary community expectations of privacy, including:***
 - a. Amend section 5.95(1) to prescribe that the right to inspect primary and annual returns contained in the register of financial interests under s.5.94(b) does not extend to the full residential address of the relevant person, and is instead limited to the suburb or locality.***
 - b. Amend Form 7 of the Local Government (Constitutional) Regulations 1998 to remove the requirement to disclose a full residential address when making the declaration of office.***

RESOLUTION 018.2/2026

CARRIED

8.2 WATER MANAGEMENT ADVOCACY POSITION

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste

COMPOSITE RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Karen Wheatland

Seconded: Phil Blight

That State Council:

1. Endorse the following new Advocacy Position:

Water Management

1. ***Access to consistent, reliable and adequate water supplies is critical for Local Government operations, emergency response, community health, amenity, environmental sustainability and economic activity.***
2. ***WALGA is calling on the State Government to:***
 - a. ***Modernise water management legislation and regulation, including:***
 - i. ***undertaking a review of the water licensing and allocation system to ensure equitable access and prioritise high value community use including for public open space***
 - ii. ***developing a state-wide framework for integrated regional and catchment-scale water planning.***
 - b. ***Protect and adequately, sustainably and equitably fund critical water infrastructure ~~programs~~ for Local Government, including:***
 - i. ***drainage and irrigation upgrades***
 - ii. ***alternative water sources (recycled and reused water, stormwater harvesting, desalination and groundwater replenishment) and disused water asset transfer***
 - iii. ***small-scale sewerage infrastructure headworks and infill sewerage.***
 - c. ***Expand the Waterwise Council Program statewide and provide:***
 - i. ***increased support and resources to assist Local Government in delivering water efficiency measures***
 - ii. ***incentives for Local Governments to undertake water efficiency initiatives.***
 - d. ***Improve water data access and capability for Local Governments to ensure evidence-based decision making.***
 - e. ***Provide effective leadership, guidance, education and enforcement to address the impacts of stormwater runoff.***

2. Retires Advocacy Position *6.14 Planning for Water.*

RESOLUTION 019.2/2026

CARRIED

8.3 OFF ROADS VEHICLES ADVOCACY POSITION

By Rebecca Hicks, Policy Advisor Community

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Mike Walmsley

Seconded: Laurene Bonza

That State Council retire Advocacy Position 3.12 Off Road Vehicles.

RESOLUTION 020.2/2026

CARRIED

8.4 HOMELESSNESS ADVOCACY POSITION

By Hannah Godsave, Manager Community Policy

COMPOSITE RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Helen Sadler
Seconded: Karen Wheatland

That State Council replace Advocacy Position 3.11 Homelessness with the following:

WALGA calls on the Western Australian and Australian Governments to provide leadership, support and sustainable, long-term funding to prevent and respond to homelessness, in particular by:

1. *Ensuring specialist homelessness services are responsive to local need, place-based and people-centred.*
2. *Investing in crisis accommodation, social and affordable housing and wraparound services.*
3. *Strengthening homelessness data collection and sharing arrangements to provide current, granular and locally relevant information to inform funding and improve service provision.*

AMENDMENT

Moved: Lewis Hutton
Seconded: Scott Crosby

To add a fourth point as follows:

4. *Addressing the root causes of the housing crisis.*

LOST

THE ORIGINAL MOTION WAS PUT

That State Council replace Advocacy Position 3.11 Homelessness with the following:

WALGA calls on the Western Australian and Australian Governments to provide leadership, support and sustainable, long-term funding to prevent and respond to homelessness, in particular by:

1. *Ensuring specialist homelessness services are responsive to local need, place-based and people-centred.*
2. *Investing in crisis accommodation, social and affordable housing and wraparound services.*
3. *Strengthening homelessness data collection and sharing arrangements to provide current, granular and locally relevant information to inform funding and improve service provision.*

RESOLUTION 021.2/2026

CARRIED

**MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY STATE COUNCILLORS
(UNDER SEPARATE COVER)**

Karen Wheatland declared an interest in this item and left the meeting at 11:25am.

Patrick Hall left the meeting and returned at 11:26am.

8.5 MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL (MWAC) WIND-UP

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Les Price
Seconded: Paul Kelly

That State Council:

- 1. Wind-up the Partnership Agreement which establishes the Municipal Waste Advisory Council, effective 30 June 2026.**
- 2. Note the replacement of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council with a Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee.**

RESOLUTION 022.2/2026

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

Karen Wheatland returned to the meeting at 11:31am.

Hannah Godsave and Rebecca Brown left the meeting at 11:32am and did not return.

8.6 ELECTORAL REFORMS ADVOCACY POSITION CONSULTATION

By Felicity Morris, Manager Governance and Strategy

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Stephen Strange

Seconded: Laurene Bonza

That WALGA:

1. Affirm point 1 of Advocacy Position 2.5.16 *Elections*, confirming that the Local Government sector supports four year terms with elections every two years and half of the Council positions spilled at each election.
2. Affirm Advocacy Position 2.5.15 *Participation in Local Government Elections*, confirming that the Local Government sector supports voluntary participation in Local Government elections.

AMENDMENT

Moved: Paul Kelly

Seconded: Phil Blight

To add a third point with the following:

3. Should the State Government announce either compulsory voting or four-year spills, then WALGA immediately commence a public campaign advocating for our Advocacy Position.

LOST

THE ORIGINAL MOTION WAS PUT

That WALGA:

1. Affirm point 1 of Advocacy Position 2.5.16 *Elections*, confirming that the Local Government sector supports four year terms with elections every two years and half of the Council positions spilled at each election.
2. Affirm Advocacy Position 2.5.15 *Participation in Local Government Elections*, confirming that the Local Government sector supports voluntary participation in Local Government elections.

RESOLUTION 023.2/2026

CARRIED

8.7 SUBMISSION FOR 2026 STATE WAGE CASE

By Kirsty Martin, Executive Director Member Services

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Daniel Lim
Seconded: Chontelle Stone

That State Council endorses the WALGA 2026 State Wage Case submission (Submission) to the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission (WAIRC) and authorises WALGA to exercise discretion to amend the Submission in response to changing economic circumstances and/or lodge further submissions in response to any direction of the WAIRC.

RESOLUTION 024.2/2026

CARRIED

8.8 FINANCE AND SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES – 29 APRIL 2026

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Eman Seif
Seconded: Matthew Niikkula

That State Council:

- 1. Endorse the Minutes of the Finance and Services Committee meeting held on 29 April 2026.**
- 2. Endorse the reallocation within the WALGA Capex Budget for 2025-26 as recommended by the Finance and Services Committee.**

RESOLUTION 025.2/2026

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

8.9 LOCAL GOVERNMENT HOUSE TRUST MINUTES – 29 APRIL 2026

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Laurene Bonza

Seconded: Phil Blight

That State Council endorse the Minutes of the Local Government House Trust Board of Management meeting held on 29 April 2026.

RESOLUTION 026.2/2026

CARRIED

8.10 SELECTION COMMITTEE MINUTES – 21 APRIL 2026

By Chantelle O'Brien, Zones Governance Officer

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Karen Wheatland

Seconded: Les Price

That State Council endorse the recommendations contained in the 21 April 2026 Selection Committee Minutes.

RESOLUTION 027.2/2026

CARRIED

8.11 HONOURS PANEL MINUTES – 15 APRIL 2026 – CONFIDENTIAL

NOTED

8.12 LGISWA BOARD APPOINTMENTS - CONFIDENTIAL

By Sam McLeod, Manager Commercial Services

Paul Kelly declared an interest in this item and left the meeting at 12:06pm.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Phil Bight
Seconded: Scott Crosby

That State Council re-appoint Cr Paul Kelly as the Metropolitan Elected Member Director on the LGISWA Board for a further three-year term, concluding on 6 May 2029.

RESOLUTION 028.2/2026

CARRIED

Paul Kelly returned to the meeting at 12:10pm.

8.13 LGISWA BOARD MINUTES – CONFIDENTIAL

By Sam McLeod, Manager Commercial Services

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cate McCullough
Seconded: Chontelle Stone

That State Council receive the Minutes of the LGISWA Board meetings held on 30 January 2026 and 20 March 2026.

RESOLUTION 029.2/2026

CARRIED

8.14 LGISWA SCHEME MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT – CONFIDENTIAL

By Sam McLeod, Manager Commercial Services

NOTED

8.15 USE OF THE ASSOCIATION'S COMMON SEAL

By Nick Sloan, Chief Executive Officer

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Mike Walmsley

Seconded: Eman Seif

That State Council note the use of the Association's common seal for the Design Review Training Collaboration Agreement between the State of Western Australia (Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage) and the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) dated 22 April 2026.

RESOLUTION 030.2/2026

CARRIED

8.16 APPOINTMENT TO GOVERNANCE POLICY TEAM

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Scott Crosby

Seconded: Eman Seif

That State Council endorse the appointment of Suzanne Migdale, the State Council representative from the North Metropolitan Zone, to the Governance Policy Team.

RESOLUTION 0.31.2/2026

CARRIED

9 POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY TEAM REPORT

Presented by Policy Team Chair, Stephen Strange

NOTED

9.2 PEOPLE AND PLACE POLICY TEAM REPORT

Presented by Policy Team Chair, Phillip Blight

NOTED

9.3 GOVERNANCE POLICY TEAM REPORT

Presented by Policy Team Chair, Patrick Hall

NOTED

9.4 ENVIRONMENT POLICY TEAM REPORT

Presented by Policy Team Chair, Les Price

NOTED

9.5 MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL (MWAC) REPORT

Presented by Chair, Karen Wheatland

NOTED

10 MATTERS NOTED / INFORMATION

10.1 FLYING MINUTES ENDORSED BY STATE COUNCIL

NOTED

11 ORGANISATION REPORTS

11.1 KEY ACTIVITY REPORTS

Karen Wheatland left the meeting at 12:25pm and returned at 12:28pm.

This item was brought forward in the Agenda.

11.1.4 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, POLICY PORTFOLIO

Presented by Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy

NOTED

11.1.1 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, ADVOCACY PORTFOLIO

Presented by Rachel Horton, Executive Manager Advocacy

NOTED

11.1.2 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO

By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure

NOTED

11.1.3 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, MEMBER SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Presented by Kirsty Martin, Executive Manager Member Services

NOTED

11.2 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

NOTED

Lewis Hutton left the meeting at 12:38pm.

11.3 CEO'S REPORT

NOTED

12 ADDITIONAL ZONE RESOLUTIONS

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Terresa Lynes
Seconded: Eman Seif

That the Additional Zone Resolutions from the April 2026 round of Zone meetings as follows be referred to the appropriate Portfolio for consideration and appropriate action.

RESOLUTION 032.2/2026

CARRIED

CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE (Member Services Portfolio)

Urgent Advocacy: Forest Products Commission (FPC) "Rates-Equivalent" Payments Diverted to State Treasury – Immediate Local Government Budget Impacts (2025/26)

That the Central Country Zone request WALGA to advocate as a matter of urgency, prior to the Local Government Budget cycle, to the State Government (including the Treasurer, Minister for Local Government, and Minister for Forestry) to:

1. Establish a formal cross-portfolio arrangement (Treasury/Local Government/ Forestry, with WALGA and affected Local Governments) to:
 - a. confirm a transparent method for calculating and timing the rates-equivalent amounts under the current legislative settings; and
 - b. implement an agreed mechanism to allocate and remit the rates-equivalent payments to the impacted Local Governments from 2026/27 onward.
2. Provide impacted Local Governments with certainty and forward estimates regarding:
 - a. the FPC's land acquisition / plantation expansion trajectory; and
 - b. modelling of the projected financial impact on affected rating bases, so Councils can undertake responsible long-term financial planning.
3. (If required) Progress options for policy and/or legislative amendment to ensure ongoing equity and financial sustainability for communities hosting FPC freehold landholdings, including ensuring outcomes that do not unfairly transfer costs to remaining ratepayers.

CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE (Infrastructure Portfolio)

Ministerial Decision to Allow Heavier Loads on Local Government Roads

That the Central Country Zone:

1. Writes to the Minister for Transport to express concern about this decision.
2. Notes the Ministerial decision to temporarily upgrade RAV networks to AMMS permit on Local Government roads.
3. Expresses concern that the decision was made without consultation with Local Governments or WALGA.
4. Requests WALGA advocate to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads Western Australia seeking clarification on:
 - a. risk assessments without route-specific road safety or asset capacity assessment for Local Government roads,
 - b. compliance and enforcement arrangements,
 - c. duration and process for revocation of the upgrade,
 - d. opt-out options for Local Government roads, and
 - e. additional funding support for impacted Local Government road assets.

EAST METROPOLITAN ZONE (Policy Portfolio)

Rating of Social and Affordable Housing

That the East Metropolitan Zone requests WALGA to:

1. obtain legal advice as to whether the provision of affordable housing is likely to fall within the meaning of the relief of poverty for the purposes of section 6.26 of the *Local Government Act*. If not, obtain legal advice as to whether the minority provision of social housing within a mixed social/affordable housing development alters the position;
2. seek interest of like-minded Local Governments to identify and fund a suitable test case through the SAT and potentially Supreme Court; and
3. advocate to the State Government to agree to require all Community Housing Providers fund the payment of Local Government rates for affordable housing.

EAST METROPOLITAN ZONE (Policy Portfolio)

Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund

That the East Metropolitan Zone request WALGA to:

1. Launch a public advocacy campaign, as a matter of priority, requesting the State Government restart the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) for the 2026/27 financial year; and
2. The campaign should showcase the benefits of the CSRFF and the reliance the Local Government sector has on this funding

GREAT SOUTHERN COUNTRY ZONE (Member Services Portfolio)

Forest Products Commission (FPC) Rates Equivalent Payments – Treasury Remittance Uncertainty and Local Government Budget Impact

That the Great Southern Country Zone request WALGA to advocate, as a matter of urgency, to the Western Australian Treasurer, Minister for Forestry and Minister for Local Government to:

1. Establish, prior to the finalisation of 2026/27 Local Government budgets, a clear, transparent, and ongoing mechanism for the calculation, remittance, and payment of those rates-equivalent amounts to affected Local Governments for 2026/27 and future financial years.
2. Work with WALGA and affected Local Governments to develop and implement a fair and sustainable long-term solution, including policy and legislative reform if required,

to ensure Local Governments are not financially disadvantaged by future Forest Products Commission land acquisitions.

GREAT SOUTHERN COUNTRY ZONE (Infrastructure Portfolio)

RAV Network Accredited Mass Management Scheme (Level 3) – Ministerial Decision Enabling Heavier Loads on Selected Local Roads

That the Great Southern Country Zone:

1. Notes the Ministerial decision to temporarily upgrade RAV networks to AMMS Level 3 on Local Government roads.
2. Expresses concern that the decision was made without consultation with Local Governments or WALGA.
3. Requests WALGA advocate to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads Western Australia seeking clarification on:
 - a. risk assessments without route-specific road safety or asset capacity assessment for Local Government roads,
 - b. compliance and enforcement arrangements,
 - c. duration and process for revocation of the upgrade,
 - d. opt-out options for Local Government roads,
 - e. when the intervention will cease to apply; and
 - f. additional funding support for impacted Local Government road assets.
4. Requests GSCZ Secretariat write to the Minister for Transport expressing the Zone's concerns and requesting clarification as detailed in parts 2 and 3 above.

MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE (Advocacy Portfolio)

WALGA State Government Advocacy Partnership Review

That the WALGA Murchison Country Zone:

1. Notes the Murchison Executive Group's 'WALGA State Government Advocacy Partnership Review' report.
2. Recognises the importance of a strong and structured partnership between the Western Australian State Government and the Local Government sector.
3. Requests WALGA State Council to undertake a review of successful Local–State Government partnership models operating in other Australian jurisdictions, including the Queensland 'Equal Partners in Government' agreement.
4. Advocates for the development of a comparable partnership framework in Western Australia that recognises Local Government as an equal partner in governance and establishes clear mechanisms for consultation, collaboration and regional input into State policy and legislative reform

NORTH METROPOLITAN ZONE (Policy Portfolio)

Building Surveyor Qualifications

That WALGA engage with the relevant Ministers to ensure future qualification pathways are established to support individuals to train and obtain registration, at minimum, as a Level 2 Building Surveyor with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries in Western Australia.

NORTH METROPOLITAN ZONE (Infrastructure Portfolio)

Advocacy for Increased State Government Funding for the Targeted Underground Power Program (TUPP)

That the North Metropolitan Zone support, and subsequently WALGA State Council, strengthen and expand the advocacy position on underground power to advocate for increased State Government funding for the TUPP initiative and even spread of the initiative throughout the Perth Metropolitan area.

NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE (Member Services / Policy / Infrastructure Portfolios)

WALGA Bulk Procurement – Low Earth Orbit (LEO) Satellite Connectivity for Volunteer Bushfire Vehicles

That the Northern Country Zone:

1. Request WALGA to investigate and scope a sector wide procurement solution, through the Preferred Supplier Program, for Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite connectivity for Volunteer Bush Fire Vehicles, including but not limited to:
 - Starlink Mini hardware and associated business/government grade data plans (e.g. Local Priority plans); and
 - Integrated “vehicle as a node” platforms such as HyphaONE Mini that combine LEO satellite, 4G/5G, Wi Fi and mesh networking in a single emergency services ready unit.
2. Request WALGA to consult with DFES, Local Governments and relevant emergency services stakeholders to:
 - Define standard technical, installation and cyber security requirements for LEO satellite equipment on volunteer bush fire appliances; and
 - Identify preferred commercial models for ongoing user fees (for example, pooled data plans, fleet wide contracts or regional cost sharing arrangements).
3. Request WALGA to report back to Zones and State Council with options and recommendations, including indicative pricing, contract structures and implementation pathways, to enable interested Local Governments to access LEO satellite solutions for their Volunteer Bush Fire Vehicles via the Preferred Supplier Program and, where appropriate, to utilise the \$20,000 BGU one off grant funding being administered by DFES.
4. Request WALGA to advocate to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and relevant partners for the ongoing operational costs of Starlink services to be funded on a continuing basis through the Emergency Services Levy (ESL).

SOUTH METROPOLITAN ZONE (Policy Portfolio)

Request for Fertiliser

That the South Metropolitan Zone requests WALGA directly engage with Minister Jarvis regarding supply of fertiliser for Local Government across WA and requests increased communication regarding ongoing fertiliser supply.

SOUTH EAST METROPOLITAN ZONE (Advocacy Portfolio)

The Establishment of Mayors, Presidents and Councillors Association

That WALGA provides a report to State Council containing a business case for the establishment of a subsidiary WALGA Elected Members Association for Western Australian Mayors, Presidents and Councillors.

SOUTH EAST METROPOLITAN ZONE (Advocacy Portfolio)

Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (WA) 2026 Determination

That the South East Metropolitan Zone request that, with respect to the *2026 Local Government CEO and Elected Council Member Determination*, WALGA:

1. conducts consultation with the Local Government sector and subsequently presents a report to State Council advocating for changes to the Elected Council Member ICT Allowance in the 2027 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Determination including, but not restricted to the following:
 - a. that the annual \$3,500 ICT allowance be significantly increased;

- b. that where ICT equipment is supplied to Elected Council Members by the Local Government, that *the allowance is not to be reduced by the cost of the supplied ICT equipment.*
2. Writes to the Chair of the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal objecting to the generalisations made in paragraphs 46 and 47 of the *2026 Local Government CEO and Elected Council Member Determination preamble* and advises that, contrary to the comments contained in the Tribunal's determination, the role of Mayors and President (particularly in Band 1 and 2 Councils) is commensurate with full-time employment, and that the "work value" of elected council members is often equivalent to or exceeds that of Members of Parliament.
3. Seeks a meeting with the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Chair to articulate in person the matters outlined in 1 and 2.

SOUTH EAST METROPOLITAN ZONE (Policy Portfolio)

Social Cohesion Grants Program

That the South East Metropolitan Zone recommends that WALGA advocate to the State Government to establish a Social Cohesion Grants Program.

SOUTH WEST COUNTRY ZONE (Policy Portfolio)

CSRFF And Playon WA Funding – Lack of Clarity on Future Rounds

That the South West Country Zone:

1. notes the current lack of clarity regarding the timing and structure of future Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund and Club Night Lights Program funding rounds; and
2. requests WALGA to advocate to the State Government for the provision of clear and timely information on future funding programs, including anticipated timelines, program structure and any proposed changes to funding criteria, to support effective Local Government planning and delivery of community sporting infrastructure.

SOUTH WEST COUNTRY ZONE (Infrastructure Portfolio)

Management of Water Corporation Bridges on Local Government Roads

That the South West Country Zone request WALGA to advocate to the WA State Government to develop a strategic solution to the asset management of Water Corporation bridges on state and Local Government roads by:

1. acknowledging the significant inadequacy of the current asset management and investment prioritisation associated with Water Corporation bridge assets; and
2. requesting that the State Government establish a dedicated funding program for an urgent bridge renewal program to address community safety and access risks.

SOUTH WEST COUNTRY ZONE (Member Services Portfolio)

Forest Products Commission (FPC) Rates Equivalent Payments – Treasury remittance uncertainty and Local Government budget impacts

That the South West Country Zone request WALGA to advocate, as a matter of urgency, to the Western Australian Treasurer, Minister for Forestry and Minister for Local Government to:

- a. provide urgent written confirmation that the rates-equivalent payments made by the Forest Products Commission to the State under section 43 of the *Forest Products Act 2000* will be remitted in full to the affected Local Governments;
- b. establish, prior to the finalisation of 2026/27 Local Government budgets, a clear, transparent, and ongoing mechanism for the calculation, remittance, and payment of those rates-equivalent amounts to affected Local Governments for 2026/27 and future financial years; and

- c. Work with WALGA and affected Local Governments to develop and implement a fair and sustainable long-term solution, including policy and legislative reform if required, to ensure Local Governments are not financially disadvantaged by future Forest Products Commission land acquisitions.

Lewis Hutton returned to the meeting at 12:47pm.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of the WALGA State Council will be held in the Conference Room at WALGA, ONE70, LV3, 170 Railway Parade, West Leederville on 1 July 2026 commencing at 4:15pm.

14 CLOSURE

Chair, Chris Antonio, thanked the Shire of Pingelly and the Central Country Zone for hosting the Regional State Council meeting.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12:48pm.