

FLYING MINUTE: 2026-27 STATE BUDGET SUBMISSION

By Dana Mason, External Affairs Manager

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the 2026-27 State Budget Submission.

RESOLUTION 254.FM/2025

CARRIED

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Each year, WALGA prepares a submission to the State Government outlining the sector's priorities for the upcoming budget.
- The State Budget Submission is an important opportunity to put forward priority issues for Local Governments, and to demonstrate the sector's willingness to work collaboratively with the State Government
- WALGA's 2026-27 State Budget Submission seeks funding for the initiatives set out in *The West at its Best* policy platform that was presented to the Government at the 2025 State Election.

ATTACHMENT

- 2026-27 State Budget Submission

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The submission aligns with related WALGA policy positions.

BACKGROUND

Each year, WALGA prepares a submission to the State Government outlining the sector's priorities for the upcoming Budget.

WALGA's submission in advance of the 2026-27 Budget looks to build on the advocacy work undertaken in the lead up to the 2025 State Election. The proposed approach was presented to State Council at the August Information Forum.

The submission seeks funding to progress initiatives set out in *The West at its Best*, which was pitched to Government as a term of Government policy platform.

The proposed initiatives in the submission are below.

Adapting to Climate Change

- Expand the Urban Canopy Grant Program.
- Creation of a reserve fund for disaster resilient reconstruction of essential public assets following a natural disaster; and funding to trial Regional Liaison Officers to boost recovery support for WA's most disaster-affected communities and improve Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) outcomes.
- Extend and expand CoastWA.
- Support regional climate alliances to deliver climate adaptation actions at a regional scale.

Disaster Ready Communities

- Reform of the Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) to ensure a sustainable and equitable funding model that meets the future needs of Bush Fire response.
 - In the interim, clear the backlog of unfunded Capital Grant requests for Volunteer Bushfire Brigades (VBFBs) and State Emergency Services (SES) units and increase the allocation for capital and operating grants.
 - Increase to the Mitigation Activity Fund Grant Program (MAFGP).
- Fully fund 63 Community Emergency Services Managers (CESMs) to work with all 111 Local Governments that manage Bushfire Brigades.
- Establish a Local Government Disaster Risk Reduction Fund supporting infrastructure and community resilience initiatives.
 - Support residents in lower socioeconomic areas with the costs associated with the transition to underground power.

Strategic Waste Management

- Allocate all Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy revenue to strategic waste management initiatives.

Safer, More Active Transport

- Convert five priority children's crossings per year to signalised crossings
- Support Local Governments to implement active transport infrastructure, interventions, and supporting initiatives around schools.
- Support Local Governments to implement pedestrian crossings and associated infrastructure improvements at mid-block locations.
- Address the gaps in the Long-Term Cycle Network (LTCN).
- Long-term commitment to fully funding the Regional Road Safety Program.

Creating Connected and Inclusive Communities

- Help rural and remote Local Governments cover the costs of providing essential primary healthcare services, until long-term funding and workforce solutions are in place.
- Additional funding for public library materials.
- Increase the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF).
- Create a Community Arts and Cultural Facilities Fund.

Local Government Reform

- Pilot programs to trial AI projects in Local Government.
- Independent organisation to undertake a broad review of rating exemptions.
- Increase funding for Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) to ensure WA is prepared and can respond to increasing biosecurity threats.
- Stop the spread of the Polyphagous Shothole Borer (PSHB).
- State-wide biodiversity survey program to standardise habitat and vegetation mapping.
- Subsidy for 15 students per year to undertake the Diploma of Local Government.

A strong and diverse economy

- Double Regional Economic Development (RED) Grants.

COMMENT

The State Budget Submission is an important opportunity to put forward priority issues for Local Governments, and to demonstrate the sector's willingness to work collaboratively with the State Government.

With the State Election held in 2025, this budget is expected to focus on progressing the Government's election commitments. However, the state's fiscal position is strong, which means that there is considerable capacity for the Government to commit to new initiatives in the 2026-27 Budget.

Once the submission has been endorsed by State Council, WALGA will undertake advocacy linked to the key milestones associated with the State Government's process for developing the Budget and target a number of audiences including the Minister for Local Government, Premier/Treasurer, key members of the Expenditure Review Committee, other relevant Ministers and heads of agencies.

There will also be traditional and digital media promotion of the key initiatives included in the submission.

FLYING MINUTE OUTCOME

Poll created: 30/10/2025 at 16:00

Poll closed: 06/11/2025 at 17:00

First Name	Last Name	Completed Date
Chris	Antonio	3/11/2025 17:46
Phillip	Blight	4/11/2025 17:39
Laurene	Bonza	5/11/2025 17:35
Scott	Crosby	1/11/2025 8:31
Tony	Dean	5/11/2025 19:41
Michael	Dudek	No response.
Patrick	Hall	31/10/2025 15:23
Logan	Howlett JP	31/10/2025 9:43
Lewis	Hutton	No response.
Paul	Kelly	6/11/2025 15:05
Caroline	Knight	No response.
Terresa	Lynes	5/11/2025 23:28
Paige	McNeil	31/10/2025 8:29
Wendy	McWhirter-Brooks	9/11/2025 00:17
Haeden	Miles	No response.
Chris	Mitchell JP	6/11/2025 16:11
Les	Price	3/11/2025 5:31
Helen	Sadler	3/11/2025 13:17
Eddie	Smith	No response.
Bronwyn	Smith	6/11/2025 12:06
Stephen	Strange	4/11/2025 16:01
Liz	Sudlow	No response.
Karen	Wheatland	6/11/2025 15:11
Barry	Winmar	6/11/2025 12:05

The submission was endorsed.

Following feedback from State Councillors during the Flying Agenda process, a minor change was made to clarify that the term 'students' is referring to senior officers and CEOs.