

FLYING MINUTE: State Hazard Plan Hostile Act – WALGA Draft Submission

By Rachel Armstrong, Policy Manager Emergency Management

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the submission on the State Hazard Plan Hostile Act.

RESOLUTION 268.FM/2026

CARRIED

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Western Australia Police Force is undertaking a five-yearly review of the State Hazard Plan – Hostile Act.
- The roles of Local Government in the Plan are generally aligned with the role of Local Government in the State Emergency Management Framework.
- WALGA shared the consultation with Local Governments and hosted a discussion at the April meeting of WALGA's Local Government Emergency Management Advisory Group.
- Feedback from Local Governments highlighted the particular operational challenges that a Hostile Act poses in regional and remote areas where Police are not available.
- The submission recommends strengthening recognition, inclusion and support for Local Governments in Hostile Act preparedness, coordination and recovery while maintaining the current boundaries around the Local Government incident support role. This includes involvement of Local Government in planning and exercising, recognition of the specific operational challenges posed by regional and remote contexts and providing for recovery funding.
- The People and Place Policy Team met on 19 May and recommended that State Council endorse the submission.
- Subject to endorsement by State Council, the submission will be submitted to the State Emergency Management Policy Unit prior to the consultation closing on 5 June 2026.

ATTACHMENT

- [WALGA submission for the State Hazard Plan – Hostile Act](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

WALGA does not hold a specific advocacy position on Hostile Act. However, relevant [WALGA Advocacy Positions](#) that inform and support the submission include:

- 8.1 Emergency Management Principles;
- 8.2 State Emergency Management Framework; and
- 8.3 Sustainable Grant Funding Model for Emergency Management.

BACKGROUND

The State Hazard Plan – Hostile Act is required to be reviewed every five years in accordance with the State Emergency Management Framework. The current broad sector consultation process is open until 5 June 2026.

A Hostile Act is one of Western Australia's 29 prescribed hazards and relates to deliberate human actions, or credible threats, that pose a serious risk to life, safety, health, property

or the environment, regardless of motive. Terrorist Acts are addressed under a separate State Hazard Plan and are distinguished by the presence of an identified political, ideological or religious motive under Commonwealth law, although preparedness and response arrangements are closely aligned while the nature and intent of an act are assessed.

Local Governments play a critical role in emergency management, including for a Hostile Act, through the development and testing of local emergency arrangements, provision of incident support resources and access to municipal facilities. They support response operations through local asset and access management, including Local Government roads and airports. Local Governments also lead community recovery, escalating to the State Government for additional support where required. Given the diversity of Local Governments across Western Australia, including regional and remote contexts, it is important that the Plan clearly articulates how State-led resources will be deployed effectively and consistently, regardless of incident location or local capacity.

COMMENT

The submission seeks to strengthen clarity around preparedness, coordination and support arrangements for a Hostile Act, particularly to ensure Local Governments are not exposed to expectations or liabilities beyond their statutory role where a Hostile Act occurs in a regional or remote location, where police response may be delayed. Local Governments operate in highly varied metropolitan, regional and remote contexts and often manage public-facing facilities, assets and services that may be directly affected during a Hostile Act. Clear procedural guidance, strong State leadership by the Hazard Management Agency, effective coordination mechanisms and appropriate resourcing are essential to manage risk and support community safety.

The submission also highlights the absence of consistent State-based recovery funding arrangements for Hostile Act emergencies, which are not eligible for DRFA funding. The review process provides an important opportunity to reinforce role clarity, improve coordination between State agencies and Local Government, and ensure the Plan remains practical, consistent and fit for purpose across the diversity of Local Governments in Western Australia.

The People and Place Policy Team considered the submission on 19 May and recommended that State Council endorse the submission.

FLYING MINUTE OUTCOME

Poll created: 22/05/2026 at 11:00
 Poll closed: 29/05/2026 at 17:00

Total invited to survey: 24
 Total finished survey: 18

Name	Completed Date
Chris Antonio	28/05/2026 18:46
Phillip Blight	25/05/2026 17:35
Laurene Bonza	29/05/2026 16:30
Donelle Buegge	29/05/2026 7:11
Scott Crosby	25/05/2026 17:52
Patrick Hall	No response
Cate McCullough	29/05/2026 14:21
Lewis Hutton	No response
Suzanne Migdale	No response
Paul Kelly	28/05/2026 20:34
Terresa Lynes	26/05/2026 14:28
Paige McNeil	23/05/2026 11:27
Chris Mitchell	29/05/2026 13:46
Matthew Niikkula	27/05/2026 14:10
Les Price	23/05/2026 6:04
Helen Sadler	29/05/2026 14:20
Robert Schmidt	24/05/2026 22:01
Eman Seif	No response
Audra Smith	No response
Stephen Strange	29/05/2026 9:57
Liz Sudlow	No response
Mike Walmsley	25/05/2026 8:18
Karen Wheatland	25/05/2026 11:15
Barry Winmar	26/05/2026 16:25

The submission was endorsed.

Following State Councillor feedback, the following amendments were made to the submission:

- *That the goal of a hostile act could be to gain media coverage.*
- *The link to the State Emergency Management Glossary has been included to aid interpretation of acronyms.*