

# President's Report

## July 2026

### **Political Engagement**

Since assuming the role of WALGA President, I have prioritised engagement with political representatives across key portfolios relevant to the sector. These discussions have been an important opportunity to reinforce WALGA's commitment to working constructively with the State and Australian Governments to achieve better outcomes for local communities and have been well received.

I have recently met with the Premier, Deputy Premier, Minister and Shadow Minister for Local Government, as well as Ministers and Shadow Ministers across critical portfolios, including planning and housing, regional development, emergency management and community services. At the Commonwealth level, I have had the opportunity to meet with both the Minister and Shadow Assistant Minister for Local Government. These discussions have been important in understanding policy priorities for the Local Government portfolio post the Federal budget being handed down.

### **State and Federal Budgets**

WA Treasurer Rita Saffioti handed down the State Budget on 8 May 2026. The Budget focusses on addressing key pressures facing the community, with key announcements related to major investments to boost housing supply and affordability, enhance health infrastructure, respond to fuel supply challenges, and ease cost-of-living pressures.

WALGA attended the State Budget Industry Briefing to gain early access to the Budget and distributed a member update that evening highlighting the key initiatives relevant to Local Governments.

WALGA also provided members with a timely briefing outlining key initiatives in the Federal Budget.

### **Media Engagement**

As the authoritative voice for Western Australian Local Government, WALGA continues to engage proactively with the media to advocate on behalf of our Members to drive better outcomes for Local Governments and their communities.

Since the last report, I have continued to highlight the important work that Local Governments deliver to their communities across media interviews with The West Australian, 6PR, ABC Radio, TV and WA Today.

We have 139 Local Governments across the State, largely delivering outstanding services for their local communities. I have been focussed on ensuring this message is being carried in my public comments.

Given recent interest, I have also made comments to [WA Today](#), regarding investment into the management of the polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB).

We will continue to work with the State Government to ensure that Local Government and key stakeholders are equipped to appropriately manage the impact of the PSHB.

## **Local Government Planning Performance**

The 2024–25 Local Government Planning Performance Monitoring Project data released by WALGA in June shows that Local Governments continue to deliver strong planning and building outcomes, despite increased demand.

Across 52 participating Local Governments, representing 92 per cent of Western Australia's population, almost 74,000 applications were determined in 2024–25, a 17 per cent increase on the previous year, with 85 per cent processed within statutory timeframes. This included more than 21,500 development applications, with 98 per cent of these approved under delegated authority. All Local Governments are encouraged to participate in the Project.

## **Emergency Management Survey**

WALGA has released the [2025 Local Government Emergency Management Survey Snapshot](#). Completed by 100 Local Governments across Western Australia, the survey results highlight the sector's continued commitment to strengthening emergency management capability. The findings show that around 90 per cent of Local Governments have maintained or increased investment in this area, while continuing to respond to growing and more complex demands.

Bushfire remains a key focus, with 91 per cent of respondents identifying it as a top hazard. The Survey also confirms the value of established programs such as the Community Emergency Services Manager initiative in supporting capability at the local level. The results reinforce the diverse operating environments across the State and will inform WALGA's ongoing advocacy to ensure Local Governments are supported to build safer and more resilient communities.

## **Emergency Management Forum**

On 26 May, WALGA delivered its Emergency Management Forum, which brought together more than 150 Local Government leaders, emergency management experts and practitioners from across Western Australia. Held under the theme 'One State, Many Realities', the Forum provided an opportunity for the sector to come together to share insights, discuss challenges and consider future directions. Discussions highlighted the growing complexity of disasters, the need to strengthen system capacity, and the importance of community-led resilience. Emerging tools and approaches were also explored to support better outcomes for Local Governments and their communities.

The strong attendance and engagement reflects the sector's ongoing commitment to improving emergency management capability across the State. I would like to thank all speakers, attendees and exhibitors for their valuable contribution to the success of the event. WALGA will continue to support Local Governments in building safer and more resilient communities across Western Australia.

## **Fuel Security**

WALGA continues to be actively engaged in the State's coordinated response to fuel supply issues. WALGA has been meeting regularly with Mr Rob Cossart, the Fuel Security State Controller, as well holding CEO roundtables to provide the opportunity for information sharing and practical feedback regarding fuel availability and impacts. Through ALGA I have also participated in roundtable discussions with the Hon Kirsty McBain MP Minister for Emergency Management, Regional Development, Local Government and Territories regarding impacts on the sector. These discussions and WALGA advocacy has been informed by data provided by the sector on its fuel usage and criticality of fuel dependent activities.

On 1 May, WALGA hosted a webinar on the Road Transport Contractual Chain Order (RTCCO) to over 200 viewers. The presentation provided information to Local Governments on the impact of the RTCCO and guidance on how they can respond.

The Fair Work Commission held a one-month review of the Order at the end of May. WALGA provided Western Australian insights which were included in ALGA's submission highlighting the significant uncertainty and implementation challenges facing Local Government.

WALGA will continue to provide updates to the sector as the situation evolves.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Irwin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Mark Irwin**  
**WALGA President**

# President's Contacts

The President's contacts since 7 May 2026 and scheduled before 1 July 2026 are as follows:

## State and Commonwealth Government Relations

- Hon Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Emergency Management; Minister for Regional Development; Local Government and Territories of Australia
- Hon Melissa Price MP, Member for Durack
- Mr Jamie Chaffey MP, Shadow Assistant Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories
- Hon Roger Cook MLA, Premier; Minister for State Development; Trade and Investment; Economic Diversification
- Hon Rita Saffioti MLA, Deputy Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Transport; Sport and Recreation
- Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Local Government; Disability Services; Volunteering; Youth; Gascoyne
- Hon Paul Papalia MLA, Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services; Defence Industries; Veterans; Racing and Gaming
- Hon John Carey MLA, Minister for Planning and Lands; Housing and Works; Health Infrastructure X2
- Hon Simone McGurk MLA, Minister for Creative Industries; Heritage; Industrial Relations; Aged Care and Seniors; Women
- Hon Don Punch MLA, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs; Water; Climate Resilience; South West
- Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Regional Development; Ports; Science and Innovation; Medical Research; Kimberley
- Hon Jessica Stojkovski MLA, Minister for Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport; Peel
- Mr Shane Love MLA, Leader of the Nationals WA; Shadow Minister for Regional Development; Mines and Petroleum; Electoral Affairs
- Mr Tom French MP, Member for Moore
- Department of Housing and Works
  - Director General, Leon Mclvor

## Local Government Relations

- **State Council Meetings**
  - Zone Chair Induction
  - Finance and Services Committee Budget Workshop
  - Information Forum
  - CEO Performance Review
  - Local Government House Trust Board of Management
  - Finance and Services Committee Meeting
- **ALGA**
  - Roundtable with Minister McBain
  - Board Meeting, 21 May
  - Board NGA Briefing
  - Australian Council of Local Governments
  - National General Assembly 23-25 June
  - National General Assembly Gala Dinner

- **LGIS**
  - Board Meeting, 29 May
- City of Bayswater, Mayor Filomena Piffareti & CEO Jeremy Edwards
- Shire of West Arthur
- Shire of Woodanilling
- Reconciliation WA
- Municipal Waste Advisory Committee June Meeting
- City of Fremantle, Mayor Ben Lawver and CEO Glen Dougall

### **Conferences, Workshops, Public Relations**

- Labor Leaders Forum Lunch with Minister Swinbourn
- WALGA Emergency Management Forum
- Reconciliation WA, National Reconciliation Week Breakfast
- Trails WA App Launch
- Leadership Matters Breakfast with Basil Zempilas
- Lord Mayors Distress Relief Fund Board Meeting
- WALGA Local Government Awards
- UDIA WA Industry Breakfast with the Deputy Premier
- WALGA National General Assembly Delegate Sundowner

### **Zone Meetings**

- North Metropolitan Zone
- Pilbara Country Zone
- Goldfields Esperance Country Zone
- Great Southern Country Zone