

State Council Agenda 5 September 2025

Ordinary meeting no. 4 of 2025 of the Western Australian Local Government Association State Council to be held at the Norseman Town Hall at 11:00am.

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1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1 OPENING

1.2 ATTENDANCE

Members	WALGA President - Chair WALGA Deputy President Central Metropolitan Zone Avon-Midland Country Zone Central Country Zone Central Metropolitan Zone East Metropolitan Zone East Metropolitan Zone Gascoyne Country Zone Goldfields Esperance Country Zone Great Eastern Country Zone Great Southern Country Zone Kimberley Country Zone Murchison Country Zone North Metropolitan Zone North Metropolitan Zone North Metropolitan Zone Peel Country Zone Pilbara Country Zone South East Metropolitan Zone South East Metropolitan Zone South Metropolitan Zone South Metropolitan Zone South Metropolitan Zone South West Country Zone	Karen Chappel AM JP Paul Kelly Chris Antonio Phillip Blight Helen Sadler Paige McNeil Haeden Miles Eddie Smith Laurene Bonza Tony Sachse (Deputy) Scott Crosby Chris Mitchell JP Les Price Michael Dudek Lewis Hutton Bronwyn Smith Caroline Knight Wendy McWhirter-Brooks Patrick Hall Teresa Lynes Cliff Collinson (Deputy) Karen Wheatland Barry Winmar Tony Dean
Secretariat	Chief Executive Officer Executive Director Member Services Acting Executive Manager Infrastructure Executive Manager Policy Executive Manager Advocacy Acting Chief Financial Officer Manager Association and Corporate Governance State Council Governance Officer	Nick Sloan Tony Brown Terri-Anne Pettet Nicole Matthews Rachel Horton Al Singh Kathy Robertson Habiba Farrag

1.3 APOLOGIES

Members	Great Eastern Country Zone Northern Country Zone Northern Country Zone South Metropolitan Zone	Stephen Strange Elizabeth Sudlow Jude Sutherland (Deputy) Logan Howlett JP
Ex Officio	The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor – City of Perth	Bruce Reynolds

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 Boorloo (Perth), on the land of the Whadjuk 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

4 MINUTES

4.1 MINUTES OF THE STATE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 2 JULY 2025

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the WALGA State Council meeting held on [2 July 2025](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

4.1.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE STATE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 2 JULY 2025

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.

6 EX OFFICIO REPORTS

6.1 CITY OF PERTH REPORT

City of Perth Deputy Lord Mayor, Bruce Reynolds, is an apology for this meeting.

6.2 LG PROFESSIONALS REPORT

Anthony Vuleta, President, LG Professionals WA, is 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.

8 MATTERS FOR DECISION

8.1 RATING OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES

By Kirsty Martin, Manager Commercial Management and Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA advocate to the State Government for:

- 1. Legislative amendments to enable WA Local Governments to rate large-scale renewable energy facilities using current rating mechanisms (differential rating based on UV, differential rating based on GRV, or GRV alone) with certainty.**
- 2. A commitment to implement a Payment in Lieu of Rates (PiLoR) framework in Western Australia.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA Members have expressed uncertainty in the rating of large-scale renewable energy facilities across the State which was confirmed through a resolution of the Peel Country Zone Meeting in April 2025.
- In response to the uncertainty, WALGA engaged Paxon Consulting Group to review the rating mechanisms available for Local Governments to recover costs associated with large scale renewable energy projects.
- The purpose of the review was to examine the current legislative framework, undertake a review across other Australian jurisdictions in respect to who rating for such facilities is managed, and provide recommendations for the rating of these facilities in Western Australia, including any required amendments to legislation.
- The Final Report outlined seven Key Findings which confirmed that legislative change would be required to enable Local Governments to rate renewable energy facilities with certainty.

ATTACHMENT

- [Local Government Rating of Renewable Energy Facilities Report](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item relates to WALGA's Strategic Pillars of Influence, Support and Expertise.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There is no current advocacy position for the rating of large-scale renewable energy facilities. Endorsement of this item will enable the establishment of a position.

BACKGROUND

Western Australia's energy industry is transforming to achieve the goal of net zero emissions by 2050. Project proponents are active in many rural, remote and regional areas, seeking to develop renewable energy projects.

The placement, management and impact of renewable energy facilities have become contentious issues nationally and in local communities across Western Australia. Concerns have been raised regarding:

- the location of these facilities on agricultural land,

- the suitability of regulatory frameworks to ensure local communities benefit from the investment,
- the inability of the planning framework to manage on and off-site impacts of proposals, and impact on agricultural land use.

There have been an increasing number of conversations around compensation and cost recovery for those communities housing large scale renewable energy projects. Compensation is typically done through some sort of community benefits arrangement and WALGA has recently developed a Renewable Energy Community Benefits and Engagement Guide to assist WA Local Governments navigate discussions with developers and their communities.

The ability for Local Governments to recover costs (ie road maintenance, additional services used etc) incurred as part of the roll out of large-scale renewable energy projects is equally important. There is a lack of clarity around the best mechanism for achieving cost recovery and Local Governments have been seeking clarification on the applicable land value rating method of these facilities and how best to approach this going forward.

In response to this, WALGA engaged Paxon Consulting Group (Paxon) to review the rating mechanisms currently available to Local Governments to recover costs and provide advice on whether amendments to legislation are required to ensure Local Governments are able to equitably and fairly rate renewable energy facilities. Paxon also undertook a review of other Australian jurisdictions and existing case law to determine the rating options available to Western Australian Local Governments.

The Key Findings of the report are outlined below:

1. Under the current legislative framework, there is no clear method that allows WA Local Governments to impose rates on renewable energy facilities in their area, with certainty.
2. Each rating option considered in this report would require some legislative change to become a more certain and reliable avenue for Local Governments in the rating of renewable energy facilities.
3. In each case, the legislative change could be achieved with fairly 'blunt' legislative amendments – that is, introduction of a new standalone provision (or set of standalone provisions), and minimal amendments required to existing legislation.
4. Any legislative amendments to tighten the rating approach and/or introduce PiLoR should not (in principle) need to be extensive or overly complex.
5. With the PiLoR framework in particular – whilst this may involve more substantial legislative drafting (given that a new framework is needed), if the Victorian model was to be generally followed, this framework would be relatively straightforward and self-contained. This makes it arguably a 'cleaner' approach than the other options, as a (mostly) standalone mechanism – and a clear process – that has minimal interference with existing rate setting processes. Of course, practical matters, namely reaching political alignment on the specifics of the mechanism (especially methodology) and the roll-out / application, may instead give rise to challenges.
6. On all the options considered, the exact nature of the amendments should be determined by which approach or position will be most palatable from a political and policy perspective. For example, whilst WA Local Governments may wish to avoid the time and uncertainty involved with a Ministerial determination / approval on any matters, it is unlikely that it can be avoided entirely (in which case the amendments would need to capture whatever approval rights would sit with the Minister).

7. Finally, if different options or permeations of rating options are used for different types of renewable energy assets, this would create another layer of legislative complexity and increase the scale of changes required.

The options for rating, including the advantages, limitations and ranking of each, are detailed in the Report. The rating options are ranked as follows:

1. PiLoR Framework
2. Differential Rating based on UV with no ratio limit
3. GRV Rating
4. Differential Rating based on GRV with no ratio limit

Although the PiLoR framework is more complex to implement, it is ranked first as it enables Local Governments to fairly and equitably rate renewable energy facilities through a cleaner, mostly standalone rating mechanism, bespoke to renewable energy assets, which is understood and accepted by the renewable energy sector.

The ability to apply a higher and uncapped differential rate determined by the Local Government is ranked second. This option is favoured over both the GRV options, as unlike the GRV options, this option does not require a valuation and is suitable for all renewable asset types.

The Report recommends the following:

1. WALGA to endorse support for the adoption of the PiLoR framework approach to the rating of renewal energy facilities.
2. WALGA to make representation to both the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety and the Department of Energy and Economic Diversification on the merits of the PiLoR framework.
3. WALGA to advocate for legislation amendment to enable WA Local Government to negotiate annual contributions with renewable energy proponents in lieu of rates.
4. WALGA should advocate to State Government to ensure any funds received through a potential community benefit arrangement are clearly identified as separate from the annual rates contributions.

COMMENT

WALGA acknowledges that even though the adoption of the PiLoR framework is the preferred option in the Report, it is also a more substantial change requiring the development of an entirely new framework across multiple State Government agencies.

This is likely to be a longer-term option and as such WALGA will advocate for this in parallel to the above legislative amendments. The adoption of a PiLoR framework in Western Australia would require a new legislative section(s) setting out:

- the legislative ability for an annual payment in lieu of rates;
- which land the process can apply to – noting in Victoria, it's land 'predominantly used' for the generation of electricity;
- the process for determining the quantum of the payment – ideally with a payment calculation methodology, at least as a 'fall back';
- a third party dispute resolution process; and
- any exemptions.

As identified in the Report, amendment to the current legislation pertaining to Local Government rating, is the most straightforward option. As such, WALGA will advocate for the following changes:

GRV Rating

For example, a new section to the effect that:

- if land has any renewable energy (RE) assets, the Minister will determine that the method of valuation is GRV for either the entire property, or the portion of (or lot(s) within) the property with RE assets, irrespective of the existing methodologies in the *Local Government Act 1995* (LG Act);
- when calculating the GRV under the *Valuation Land Act 1978* (VL Act), works effected to the land and items affixed to the land (including turbines, towers, masts and monitoring systems, panels, buildings, substations and connection points, roads, fencing, foundations cabling / connectors etc), are improvements, irrespective of whether above ground or underground, and irrespective of who owns the items.

Differential Rating (UV)

- A new section of the LG Act to the effect that the Minister's approval is not required where the (higher) differential rating category relates to land with RE Assets.
- This could / would be accompanied by a subsection with conditions or parameters on the setting of a higher differential rate, or requirement for compliance with a subsidiary document that contained such parameters.
- If the public consultation process (in s 6.36 of the LG Act) was to be removed or pared back for land with RE Assets, a new subsection in the LG Act would be required, to the effect that the process either did not need to be followed for this category, or setting out a more limited way in which it would apply.

Differential Rating (GRV)

As per legislative changes required under the GRV Rating and Differential Rating (UV) Options.

8.2 RATING OF MISCELLANEOUS LICENCES

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA:

- 1. Advocate for Local Governments to continue to have the ability to rate miscellaneous licences under the *Mining Act 1978*; and**
- 2. Oppose legislative amendments that seek to exempt occupied miscellaneous licence land from rating.**
- 3. Continue to advocate for a broad review to be conducted into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Under section 6.26 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, all land is rateable unless specifically exempted.
- In a State Administrative Tribunal decision of 2024, it was determined that Crown land the subject of an occupied miscellaneous licence was non-rateable.
- Subsequently, the Shire of Mt Magnet appealed this decision to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court ruled that Crown land subject to a miscellaneous licence and occupied is rateable, overturning the State Administrative Tribunal decision.
- This ruling affirmed the principle that Local Governments may levy rates on such land, recognising the significant infrastructure and occupation associated with these licences.
- On 2 August 2025, the WA State Government announced its intention to legislate amendments to the *Local Government Act 1995* to exempt land under miscellaneous licences from rating.
- WALGA has been advocating for Local Governments to have the ability to rate these licences and a formal advocacy position is required.
- WALGA is seeking support from the WA Parliament for the appropriate committee to review the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995.

ATTACHMENT

- Supreme Court decision, [Shire of Mt Magnet v Atlantic Vanadium Pty Ltd \[2025\] WASC 274](#)
- [Ministers media release](#)
- [WALGA's media release](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item relates to WALGA's Strategic Pillars: Influence, Support and Expertise.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There is no specific advocacy position relating to miscellaneous licences. Endorsement of this item will enable the establishment of a position.

Current advocacy position 2.1.1 relates generally to Rating Exemptions Review:

Position Statement	<i>A broad review be conducted into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995.</i>
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BACKGROUND

Local Governments in Western Australia rely on property rates as a primary source of revenue to fund essential services and infrastructure. Under section 6.26 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, all land is rateable unless specifically exempted. Historically, exemptions have applied to land used for charitable, benevolent, religious, or public purposes, as well as small prospecting leases under 10 hectares and unoccupied miscellaneous licences.

A miscellaneous licence under the *Mining Act 1978* and the Mining Regulations 1981 (WA) sets out the purposes a miscellaneous licence may be granted for:

(a) a road; (b) a tramway; (c) an aerial rope way; (d) a pipeline; (e) a power line; (f) a conveyor system; (g) a tunnel; (h) a bridge; (i) taking water; (ia) a search for groundwater; (i) hydraulic reclamation and transport of tailings; (j) an aerodrome; (k) a meteorological station; (l) a sulphur dioxide monitoring station; (m) a communications facility; (n) a drainage channel; (o) a pump station; (p) a minesite accommodation facility; (q) a bore; (r) a bore field; (s) a water management facility; (t) a power generation and transmission facility; (u) a storage or transportation facility for minerals or mineral concentrate; (v) a minesite administration facility; [2025] (w) a workshop and storage facility; (x) a jetty.

In 2024, the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) determined that land under a miscellaneous licence was exempt regardless of occupation.

On an appeal from the Shire of Mt Magnet, in July 2025 the Supreme Court of Western Australia ruled that Crown land subject to a miscellaneous licence and occupied is rateable, overturning a previous SAT decision. This ruling affirmed the principle that Local Governments may levy rates on such land, recognizing the significant infrastructure and occupation associated with these licences.

However, the State Government has announced its intention to legislate amendments to the *Local Government Act 1995* to exempt land under miscellaneous licences from rating, citing the need to protect jobs and provide certainty to the mining sector.

WALGA has been advocating strongly for Local Governments to have the ability to rate these licences, however it is appropriate for State Council to endorse a formal position, aligning with existing advocacy position 2.1.1.

KEY ISSUES

- **Equity and Fairness:** Miscellaneous licences often support substantial infrastructure (e.g. roads, pipelines, bore fields, accommodation) that places demands on local services. Exempting such land from rates shifts the financial burden to residents and small businesses.
- **Legal Precedent:** The Supreme Court decision provides a clear legal interpretation that supports Local Governments' ability to rate occupied land under miscellaneous licences.

- Community Impact: Local Governments maintain infrastructure and services that benefit mining operations. Rates are a fair mechanism for mining companies to contribute to the communities they operate in.
- State Government Proposal: The proposed legislative change undermines the Supreme Court's decision and WALGA's advocacy for financial sustainability and fairness in rating practices.

COMMENT

WALGA strongly supports the Supreme Court's interpretation and opposes the State Government's proposed amendments. The Association maintains that:

- Occupied land under miscellaneous licences should be rateable.
- Mining companies should contribute to local communities through rates, just as other property owners do.
- Legislative changes should not override judicial decisions that promote equity and sustainability.

WALGA has advocated strongly on this issue following the State Governments announcement to legislate for a rating exemption for miscellaneous licences.

The following is a summary of WALGA's recent advocacy on this issue:

Thursday, 10 July 2025

- WALGA media statement – [Supreme Court decision supports critical role of Local Government](#)
- ABC Drive, [interview with Geraldine Mellet](#)

Saturday, 2 August 2025

- WALGA media statement - [WALGA condemns State Government move to legislate against Supreme Court decision](#)
- The West Australian, Rebecca Le May - [WA Local Government Association hits back as State Government shields miners from land rates](#)

Sunday, 3 August 2025

- The Sunday Times (pg. 5), Rebecca Le May – “Councils’ fury over mining land rates’

Monday, 4 August

- ABC News online, Chloe Henville - [“Move to exempt miners from paying rates on miscellaneous licenses 'concerning”](#)
- ABC Mornings with Nadia Mitsopoulos – [“WALGA president Karen Chappel and AMEC CEO Warren Pearce discuss the State Government plan to prevent councils levying rates on miscellaneous licences”](#)
- 7 Regional News, Brandon Demura - [“State Government accused of re-writing rulebook for WA Councils”](#)
- ABC News Perth, Blake Kagi - [“Local Governments condemn State Government move”](#)

It is recommended that WALGA advocate for Local Governments to continue to have the ability to rate miscellaneous licences under the *Mining Act 1978*, and to oppose legislative amendments that seek to exempt occupied miscellaneous licence land from rating. In addition, continue to advocate that a broad review be conducted into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under section 6.26 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

8.3 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY SPORTING AND RECREATION FACILITIES FUND ADVOCACY POSITIONS

By Rebecca Hicks, Policy Advisor Community

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA:

- 1. Replace Advocacy Position 3.71 Community Infrastructure with the following:**

Local Governments own, lease, and maintain vital community infrastructure across Western Australia that delivers essential benefits to local communities. Local Governments face significant funding pressures to ensure this infrastructure is effectively planned, developed, maintained, and enhanced to meet evolving community needs and population growth.

- 1. WALGA calls on the Australian Government to provide \$500 million per annum for community infrastructure through a national formula based, targeted Local Government funding program.*
- 2. WALGA calls on the State Government to:*
 - a. Provide \$30 million per annum for the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund,*
 - b. Provide \$30 million per annum for community arts and cultural infrastructure,*
 - c. Provide funding for retrofitting accessible design features to community infrastructure,*
 - d. Align all community infrastructure funding with existing State co-contribution of at least two-thirds.*

- 2. Retire Advocacy Position 3.72 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Following a review of WALGA's Investing in Communities advocacy positions it is proposed that Advocacy Position 3.71 Community Infrastructure be updated, and that Advocacy Position 3.72 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund be retired.
- The proposed revisions intend to align the positions with current advocacy approaches and combine them into one position.
- The proposed changes were noted by the Infrastructure Policy Team and endorsed by the People and Place Policy Team in July 2025.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Endorsing the advocacy position updates and retirement aligns with the WALGA 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, in particular:

- Influence – Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government.
- Influence – Empower the Local Government sector to build communities equipped for the future.
- Support – Anticipate, understand and respond to Member needs.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- The replacement of Advocacy Position 3.7.1 Community Infrastructure with an updated position.
- The retirement of Advocacy Position 3.7.2 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund.

BACKGROUND

Local Governments own, lease, maintain and are major stakeholders in community infrastructure across Western Australia. This includes 233 public libraries, as well as cultural centres, performance spaces, galleries, recreation centres and playgrounds. Community infrastructure provides essential community benefits but requires significant capital and ongoing maintenance to upkeep the investment.

Advocacy Position 3.7.1 defines community infrastructure as including, but not limited to, community pools, sport and recreation facilities, community resource centres, visitor servicing centres, child health centres, community centres, parks, playgrounds, skate parks, public libraries, arts and cultural centres, and shared facilities that Local Governments operate.

The State Government Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) was established in 1974 to provide financial support to Local Governments and community groups to develop sport and recreation infrastructure. The fund is well utilised by Local Governments and has been oversubscribed in recent years. The State Government's annual contribution to CSRFF was halved in the 2025-24 State Budget to \$12 million. Sector feedback indicates that rising construction costs have rendered current State CSRFF contributions insufficient to guarantee project viability. The Cook Government 2025 election commitments, confirmed in the 25-26 State Budget, provide funding for several new location-specific infrastructure investments.

The current CSRFF advocacy position includes a request for two million dollars per annum, quarantined for female representation. The 2025-26 State Budget included \$6 million to establish a 'Boosting Women and Girls Participation in Sport' grant program and \$23.9 million to support Local Governments and community sporting organisations to upgrade facilities for women at targeted locations.

There is no equivalent ongoing funding for community arts and culture infrastructure. Advocacy calling for this ongoing funding was included in [The West at its Best](#) as an identified priority need for the sector.

[WALGA's Federal election priorities](#) includes the call for \$500 million per year for community infrastructure through formula based targeted Local Government funding. This funding ask is not currently captured in the WALGA Advocacy Manual.

There are no current funding programs specifically for retrofitting accessible design features to community infrastructure. However, the importance of ensuring universal access to community infrastructure aligns with several State Government strategic documents, including the [State Infrastructure Strategy Recommendation 88](#) and [A Western Australia for Everyone: State Disability Strategy 2020-2030](#).

This advocacy position review was discussed by the Infrastructure Policy Team and endorsed by the People and Place Policy Team in July 2025.

3.71 Community Infrastructure

It is proposed that WALGA's **current** advocacy position:

The Association continues to advocate for better planning and support for community infrastructure and investment by the State, Australian and private partners.

be **replaced** with:

Local Governments own, lease, and maintain vital community infrastructure across Western Australia that delivers essential benefits to local communities. Local Governments face significant funding pressures to ensure this infrastructure is effectively planned, developed, maintained, and enhanced to meet evolving community need and population growth.

1. *WALGA calls on the Australian Government to provide \$500 million per annum for community infrastructure through a national formula based, targeted Local Government funding program.*
2. *WALGA calls on the State Government to:*
 - a. *provide \$30 million per annum for the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund*
 - b. *provide \$30 million per annum for community arts and cultural infrastructure,*
 - c. *provide funding for retrofitting accessible design features to community infrastructure*
 - d. *align all community infrastructure funding with existing State co-contribution of at least two-thirds.*

3.72 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund

It is proposed that WALGA's **current** position be **retired**:

The Local Government sector advocates for the State Government to:

1. *increase the CSRFF funding pool to at least \$25 million per annum and revert the contribution ratio to 50% split to enable more community programs and infrastructure to be delivered; and*
2. *increase the \$1 million per annum quarantined for female representation to at least \$2 million per annum.*

COMMENT

The proposed revisions provide a broad statement for ongoing investment in community infrastructure, reflecting the significant financial cost of upkeep, including costs associated with retrofitting accessible design features to existing infrastructure. Providing State and Australian Government funding through ongoing open grant programs provides a more equitable and sustainable funding source.

Combining the community infrastructure advocacy positions aims to streamline WALGA advocacy with specific points that reflect WALGA priorities as set out in the [2023-24 State Budget submission](#), [The West at its Best](#) and the [Federal Election Priorities](#), focused on sustainable stewardship of community infrastructure, including:

- Arts and culture
- Sports and recreation
- Accessible design features

The shift from a fifty per cent to a two-thirds State funding contribution reflects a strategic alignment of community infrastructure advocacy with prevailing funding frameworks in the broader infrastructure sector. This ensures consistency and reinforces the case for equitable investment across all infrastructure categories.

8.4 RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH SERVICES ADVOCACY POSITION

By Hannah Godsave, Policy Manager Community

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA replace Advocacy Position 3.2.2 Regional Health Services with the following:

The Western Australian and Australian Governments are responsible for ensuring that all West Australians have equitable access to primary healthcare services, regardless of their location. Local Governments should not have to step in to support the provision of these services for their communities.

- 1. WALGA calls on the Western Australian and Australian Governments to address the systemic failures in the provision of rural and remote primary healthcare services, including through:**
 - a. the development and implementation of adequate, appropriate and sustainable funding models**
 - b. incentivising rural and remote healthcare workforce recruitment and retention.**
- 2. Local Governments should be reimbursed for costs incurred to support the provision of primary healthcare services until sustainable funding and workforce models are in place.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The provision of healthcare services is both an Australian and State responsibility.
- The WALGA Local Government Primary Healthcare Services Survey provides a comprehensive dataset of the cost, nature and geographical location of Local Government support predominantly focused on General Practice services.
- The recommended revisions update the Advocacy Position to align with the data and recommendations of the Survey Report and provide a framework for further advocacy.
- The People and Place Policy Team considered and endorsed the proposed changes at its meeting on 9 July.

ATTACHMENT

- [Local Government Primary Healthcare Services Survey](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Revising Advocacy Position 3.2.2 aligns to the WALGA 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, in particular:

- Influence – Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government.
- Support – Provide practical sector-wide solutions based on research and evidence.
- Expertise - Foster relationships between our subject matter experts and stakeholders.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The replacement and renaming of Advocacy Position 3.2.2 Regional Health Services with an updated position titled Rural and Remote Health Services.

BACKGROUND

In 2023, WALGA commissioned Rural Health West (RHW) to survey WA Local Governments to ascertain the extent to which Local Governments were providing financial or in-kind support to secure primary healthcare services. The Survey Report provides a comprehensive dataset on the cost, nature, and geographical location of Local Government support, as well as evidence that Local Government support was predominantly focused on General Practice services.

This issue has been identified as a priority for the sector at a number of forums, including the October 2024 Band 4 Local Governments meeting, the May 2025 Zones meetings, priority responses and member advocacy being undertaken by the [Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance](#).

WALGA has begun a renewed advocacy campaign, with targeted asks of the Australian and State Governments to improve access to primary health services in rural and remote areas, to remove the need for Local Government intervention.

The People and Place Policy Team considered and endorsed the proposed advocacy position changes at its meeting on 9 July.

It is proposed that WALGA's **current** Advocacy Position 3.2.2 Regional Health:

The Association supports continuing to work with affected Local Governments and key stakeholders to identify and develop collaborative strategies. The Association supports continuing to advocate to the State Government to prioritise regional health and the regional health workforce. The Association supports developing a policy connection with the Australian Local Government Association as a pathway for advocating for stronger specialised regional health workforces.

Be **replaced** with:

3.2.2 Rural and Remote Healthcare Services

The Western Australian and Australian Governments are responsible for ensuring that all West Australians have equitable access to primary healthcare services, regardless of their location. Local Governments should not have to step in to support the provision of these services for their communities.

1. *WALGA calls on the Western Australian and Australian Governments to address the systemic failures in the provision of rural and remote primary healthcare services, including through:
 - a. *the development and implementation of adequate, appropriate and sustainable funding models.*
 - b. *incentivising rural and remote healthcare workforce recruitment and retention.**
2. *Local Governments should be reimbursed for costs incurred to support the provision of primary healthcare services until sustainable funding and workforce models are in place.*

COMMENT

Access to primary health is a critical issue for a large proportion of WALGA members. Local Government support of primary healthcare services creates a financial impost and diverts funding from other Local Government services and functions.

The proposed revisions provide a stronger position on the responsibility of the Australian and State Governments for primary healthcare provision and addressing the cost impost on Local Government, compelled to intervene where the current health system is failing.

The revised position aligns with the wider healthcare reform platform to enable advocacy partnerships and to provide a level of flexibility for the advocacy campaign in response to Government announcements. Terminology changes from regional health to rural and remote, aligns with the language used across healthcare advocacy and reflects that Local Government support for healthcare services is concentrated in areas of smaller populations. Framing the position around financial reimbursement enables sector diversity in response to community need and avoids implying an ongoing funding role for Local Government.

8.5 HEALTH ADVOCACY POSITION

By Hannah Godsave, Policy Manager Community

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA retire Advocacy Position 3.2 Health.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Advocacy Position 3.2 relates to public health and predates the *Public Health Act 2016* and the commencement of Stage 5 of the Act in June 2024.
- The position is superseded by Advocacy Position 3.2.1 *Local Public Health Plans*, which was revised in September 2024 to align to the 2016 Act and specifically the implementation of Local Public Health Plans.
- The People and Place Policy Team considered and endorsed the retirement of Advocacy Position 3.2 Health at its meeting on 9 July.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Retiring Advocacy Position 3.2 aligns to the WALGA 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, in particular:

- Influence – Lead policy development for the Local Government sector.
- Expertise – Optimise organisational capability to service members' needs.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The retirement of Advocacy Position 3.2.1 Health.

BACKGROUND

Advocacy position 3.2.1 Health, endorsed in 2005, states:

The Association supports improving health outcomes for Western Australians through the investment in and provision of infrastructure and delivery of services in partnership with health professionals.

This position was last cited in a 2022 WALGA submission to the Department of Health relating to the Statutory Review of the *Food Act 2008*.

The position predates the commencement of the *Public Health Act 2016* and Stage 5 of the Act in 2024, which requires all Local Governments to develop and publish a Local Public Health Plan.

This position is superseded by advocacy position 3.2.1 relating to public health planning and specifically the implementation of Local Public Health Plans:

3.2.1 Local Public Health Plans

WALGA supports the objects and principles of the Public Health Act 2016.

The State Government must ensure that:

1. *Guidance, tools and resources are developed to support the development of Local Public Health Plans; and*
2. *Funding is provided for:*

- a. *smaller rural and regional councils to support the development of Local Public Health Plans; and*
- b. *the implementation of actions under Local Public Health Plans.*

The People and Place Policy Team endorsed the revisions to this position in September 2024.

COMMENT

Given changes in State public health legislation and the recent revisions to advocacy position 3.2.1 that cover the aspects of public health alluded to in advocacy position 3.2, this position is no longer required and should be retired.

The People and Place Policy Team considered and endorsed that Advocacy Position 3.2 Health be retired at its meeting on 9 July.

8.6 ADVOCACY POSITIONS FOR ACTIVE TRANSPORT AND MICROMOBILITY

By Negar Nili, Policy Officer Transport and Roads

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA endorse the proposed advocacy positions on Active Transport and micromobility.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Six new advocacy positions are proposed, with the aim of providing a clear and unified framework to support Local Governments in planning, delivering, and advocating for walking, cycling, and other forms of Active Transport (AT).
- The new advocacy positions are intended to strengthen WALGA's voice in state and national forums, guide responses to legislative or policy changes, and ensure the sector is well-represented in cross-government initiatives related to AT.
- These positions reflect the growing role of AT in addressing key policy areas including health, sustainability, road safety, and urban liveability. The policy statements cover six key areas:
 - Active Transport Vision and Strategy
 - Funding
 - Safety
 - Education, Encouragement, and Community Engagement
 - eRideables
 - Active Travel to School
- The Infrastructure Policy Team considered and recommended the proposed AT advocacy positions for endorsement by State Council at its meeting on 4 August.

ATTACHMENT

- [Summary of Issues, Challenges for Active Transport in WA](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The new advocacy positions align to the WALGA 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, in particular:

- Influence – Lead policy development for the Local Government sector.
- Support – Provide practical sector-wide solutions based on research and evidence.
- Expertise – Promote a dynamic, agile, high-performance culture.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The new advocacy positions will complement existing [Advocacy Positions](#):

- 5.2.5 The Role of Local Government in the Future Management of Warden Controlled Children's Crossings
- 5.2.7 Driving Change - Road Safety Strategy 2020-2030
- 5.3.3 Cycling on Footpaths
- 5.3.4 Licencing cyclists and registering bicycles
- 5.3.5 Active Travel to Schools
- 5.3.6 Pedestrian Crossings

BACKGROUND

In March 2024, State Council, through the Infrastructure Policy Team requested that WALGA organise a policy forum to better understand issues relating to Active Transport (AT) and

develop an integrated policy and advocacy platform. This enhanced focus on AT formed the basis for extensive consultation with Local Governments over the last 18 months. The consultation process was primarily directed at identifying gaps in AT policy and AT infrastructure needs and involved extensive consultation with Local Government AT officers as well as workshops with Elected Members and senior stakeholders from relevant State agencies.

The WALGA Transport and Roads team met with over 30 Local Government officers and held two workshops with diverse stakeholders to support the development and refinement of a discussion paper that examines AT and micromobility in the Western Australian, Local Government context. The consultation process with Local Governments highlighted a range of issues, challenges, and gaps facing AT initiatives in WA, offering valuable insights into Local Governments unique needs and perspectives as they work to enhance AT infrastructure and promote sustainable mobility. The information gathered was summarised into ten key challenges experienced across jurisdictions:

Strategic Issues	Challenges
1. Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speeding and inappropriate travel speed Driver attitude towards vulnerable road users Lack of safe crossing points and limited space
2. Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited (no) funding for amenities
3. Network Gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding
4. Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding limits are a key challenge and focus of solutions
5. Integration in Plans and Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low community uptake and behaviour change
6. Incentives and Disincentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Car dependency and low awareness of active transport benefits
7. Public Transport Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bikes not permitted on public transport during peak hours
8. Education and Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No dedicated lead Fragmented efforts across multiple parties
9. E-Rideables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unclear regulation and enforcement
10. Travel to Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor planning for AT in school areas Limited school staff capacity to manage funding Inaccessible or inadequate grant funding

These challenges have been addressed in six proposed advocacy positions:

- Active Transport Vision and Strategy
- Funding
- Active Transport Safety
- Education/Encouragement/Community Engagement
- eRideables
- Active Travel to School

ADVOCACY POSITIONS

Active Transport Vision and Strategy	
Position Statement	<p><i>Local Governments recognise the public health, environmental, community, economic and transport benefits offered by active transport and calls on all levels of government to work toward increasing active transport.</i></p> <p><i>WALGA calls on the State and Federal Governments to work with the Local Government sector to develop and implement an Active Transport vision, strategy and actions with measurable goals to increase mode share of active transport. The Active Transport Strategy should include allocation of responsibilities to agencies and identification of sustainable funding.</i></p> <p><i>The relationships to other strategic plans should be defined to align a whole-of-government approach.</i></p>
Background	<p>Active Transport mode share in Western Australia is low compared with many global cities. Increasing the share of trips by active modes provides many benefits including reduced traffic congestion, less atmospheric pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions, improved health through incidental physical activity and opportunities for enhanced community interaction.</p> <p>Integrating an Active Transport Vision and Strategy with other strategic plans will encourage considerations for active travel to be embedded across all planning, design and operational processes.</p>
Priority Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage Local Governments to embed measures to enable Active Transport in all Local Government operations, policies, and programs. • Call on the State Government to embed the provision of active transport infrastructure in State planning regulations and guidelines • Invest in stakeholders planning with clearly defined, shared outcomes. • Adopt a cross-government approach, with common performance measures across relevant departments to measure progress. • Promote a greater understanding of Active Transport user needs within all stages of planning and project delivery. • Normalise Active Transport in all infrastructure and policy discussions so that it becomes business as usual. • Better integrate active and public transport through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advocating that the PTA provide appropriate end of trip facilities at public transport nodes including secure parking and storage.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Calling on the PTA to provide for the carriage of bicycles and eRideables on all train services. ○ Call on the PTA to explore opportunities to accommodate bicycles on buses. ● Invest in data collection, management and analysis to inform investment in active transport infrastructure and programs including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establishing a comprehensive, standardised data-sharing framework and platform for active transport information. ○ Adopting video and AI-driven solutions to enhance the quality and efficiency of data collection, analysis and reporting. ○ Develop a platform dedicated for comprehensive collection and analysis of Active Transport incident data, providing insights to improve safety, infrastructure design and strategic planning. ● Require that design guidance for the public realm provides safe and attractive environment for active transport. ● Provide safety through convenient priority road and rail crossing points for pedestrians and other active transport users and appropriate amenity including quality paths, drinking water at suitable intervals, shade and seating.
Key Challenges Addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Closing network gaps - Travel to Schools - Safety

Funding	
Position Statement	<i>WALGA calls on Federal and State Governments to provide a step change in funding for Active Transport by providing consistent, long-term investment to support Local Governments in planning, delivering, and maintaining AT infrastructure, programs, and supporting initiatives.</i>
Background	Active Transport is vital to creating healthier, more connected, and sustainable communities. Despite this, funding to support AT—across infrastructure, programs, planning, and maintenance—remains limited, inconsistent, and often short-term. This restricts Local Governments' ability to deliver integrated, accessible AT options that meet community needs. Sustained and coordinated funding is essential to increase uptake, improve safety, and ensure the long-term success of active travel initiatives.
Priority Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Committing to a ten-year allocated funding program to deliver the Long-Term Cycle Network, based on a co-

	<p>founded model of up to one-third contribution from Local Government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing non-competitive cost indexed grants based on the extent of the defined active transport network for renewal / maintenance to support appropriate levels of service and asset longevity. • Establish a new Local Destination Program to fund the development of safe and accessible routes to key community destinations, including schools, train stations, and activity centres. • Significantly increase overall investment in Active Transport to reflect its role in health, sustainability, and transport outcomes, and bring funding levels closer to international benchmarks.
Key Challenges Addressed	- Funding

Active Transport Safety	
Position Statement	<i>WALGA calls on the State Government for the provision of safe, pedestrian/bicycle-priority crossing points; safer speeds on local roads and around community hubs, schools, and public transport nodes; and road diet treatments to support safer environments for all users of the road network.</i>
Background	High traffic volumes and vehicle speeds contribute significantly to unsafe conditions for people walking, cycling, and using other forms of Active Transport. Creating safer streets requires a combination of infrastructure improvements, speed management, and environmental design strategies that prioritise the most vulnerable users.
Priority Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve safety for active transport users at existing roundabouts and intersections. • Seek reforms to Main Roads WA's speed zoning policies and processes to enhance Local Governments' influence in setting speed limits on local streets and distributor roads. • Support road design changes such as tree planting, lane narrowing, and other physical measures that promote slower, safer streets. • Reduce through-traffic volumes on all roads except Primary Distributors, especially in residential and mixed-use areas. • Target safety improvements in high-risk locations, including school precincts and public transport hubs. • Support complementary education initiatives to raise awareness of active transport user safety and responsible road use.

Key Challenges Addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safety - Travel to schools
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Education/Encouragement/Community Engagement	
Position Statement	<i>When coupled with investment in infrastructure, education and encouragement programs effectively support the uptake of active transport modes and a cultural shift in attitudes toward active transport. WALGA calls on key stakeholders to form a coalition to advance mode shift to active transport initiatives, support infrastructure implementation, and realise a coordinated, multi-channel approach.</i>
Background	<p>Education, encouragement, and community engagement are essential to increasing the uptake of Active Transport. Beyond infrastructure, shifting travel behaviour relies on building public understanding of the benefits, availability, and safe use of Active Transport options. Raising awareness among both the community and key stakeholders helps normalise Active Transport, promote safety, and support long-term behavioural change.</p> <p>Public education campaigns can highlight the benefits of walking, cycling, and micromobility, while also addressing knowledge gaps around safe practices and existing networks. Targeted engagement with schools, local communities, and service providers—such as transport operators and enforcement agencies—can foster a more supportive environment for AT use across all settings.</p>
Priority Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call on the State Government to develop guidance and materials (e.g. toolkits) that support travel behaviour change and promote safe, responsible use of Active Transport and Micromobility. • Adopt a cross-government approach to deliver targeted training for relevant stakeholders on how to safely and respectfully interact with active transport users. • Support behaviour changes programs through incentives such as parking cash-out schemes, and other supportive measures. • Encourage Local Governments to provide a platform to raise public awareness of existing active transport facilities and the benefits of using them.
Key Challenges Addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education and community engagement

eRideables

Position Statement	<i>WALGA calls on the State Government to develop and implement a comprehensive regulatory framework to address the safety, sale, and use of e-scooters and other eRideables in Western Australia. The State Government should consult with stakeholders, including Local Governments, to ensure that the framework is practical, enforceable, and responsive to on-the-ground challenges.</i>
Background	The use of eRideables—such as e-scooters and similar micromobility devices—is rapidly growing across Western Australia. While these devices offer affordable, low-emission transport options, the current regulatory framework has not kept pace with their adoption. Issues such as the sale of non-compliant devices, inconsistent enforcement, and public safety concerns—particularly in high pedestrian activity areas—are placing pressure on Local Governments and other stakeholders. There is a clear need for a coordinated, state-led response that balances innovation with safety, enforcement, and community wellbeing.
Priority Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing clear rules and enforcement to prevent the importation and sale of non-compliant or illegal eRideable devices. • Strengthen enforcement mechanisms and apply appropriate penalties to ensure compliance with existing laws. • Introduce and utilise equipment to verify compliance with legal performance limits. • Empower Local Governments to regulate the use of eRideables in high pedestrian activity areas, particularly on inner-city footpaths and shared spaces. • Develop a State-led eRideable Safety Action Plan in collaboration with key stakeholders. • Ensure that Local Governments are meaningfully engaged in this process, with WALGA providing formal representation. • Deliver targeted education and awareness initiatives for school-aged children and their parents to promote informed purchasing decisions, understanding of relevant rules, rider courtesy, and safe riding behaviour.
Key Challenges Addressed	- eRideables

Active Travel to School	
Position Statement	<i>WALGA recognises that enabling and encouraging active transport to and from schools delivers wide-ranging benefits</i>

	<p>— including improved public health, reduced traffic congestion, environmental sustainability, and stronger community wellbeing. Despite these benefits, barriers such as safety concerns, limited school resources, and lack of supportive infrastructure prevent the widespread uptake of active travel among students. WALGA supports a coordinated, long-term approach to embed active transport into the school environment, supported by targeted investment, planning, and program delivery.</p>
Background	<p>Supporting children to walk, cycle, or scoot to school contributes to broader goals in public health, transport efficiency, environmental sustainability, and community safety. However, achieving these outcomes requires more than just physical infrastructure. Success depends on a collaborative approach involving schools, Local and State Government, parents, and community organisations. Active travel needs to be embedded as a normal, supported, and safe part of daily life for families. Addressing the existing barriers will require long-term coordination, consistent funding, and stronger alignment between education, transport, and planning systems.</p>
Priority Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing sustained investment in school and community-based active travel programs. • Ensure funding is accessible through clear grant processes and supported by dedicated officers to assist schools with limited staff capacity. • Increase incentives for Traffic Wardens at Children's Crossings. • Encourage car-free zones around schools, where appropriate, to improve safety. • Guidance for schools and local governments to undertake connectivity studies and prioritise low-cost, high-impact improvements. • Integrate active transport education into the school curriculum and culture. • Plan and deliver infrastructure that ensures children can travel safely and independently to school.
Key Challenges Addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Closing Network Gaps - Travel to Schools - Education and community engagement - Funding

COMMENT

The proposed policy positions collectively address critical areas needed to advance AT across Western Australia. Each position strengthens WALGA's advocacy platform and supports Local Governments in addressing current and emerging challenges.

Active Transport Vision and Strategy

A clear, coordinated strategy is essential to embed AT across planning, infrastructure, and service delivery. Currently, efforts are fragmented and lack measurable goals or alignment between agencies. A shared vision and defined responsibilities will support integrated planning and prioritisation of resources at all levels of government.

Funding

Inconsistent, short-term funding limits Local Governments' ability to deliver and maintain Active Transport infrastructure and programs. A long-term, sustainable funding framework aligned with national and international benchmarks is critical to achieving health, environmental, and transport outcomes.

Active Transport Safety

High traffic speeds and unsafe infrastructure are key barriers to AT uptake. A safe, low-speed environment supported by appropriate design and policy measures is necessary to protect vulnerable road users and improve community confidence in walking, cycling, and other forms of active mobility.

Education, Encouragement, and Community Engagement

Behaviour change requires more than infrastructure. Effective education and engagement build public understanding, increase awareness, and help normalise Active Transport. A coordinated approach involving communities and relevant stakeholders is vital for shifting attitudes and increasing uptake.

eRideables

The rapid uptake of eRideables has outpaced the current regulatory framework, creating enforcement, safety, and infrastructure challenges. A comprehensive, State-led framework, developed with Local Government input is needed to address compliance, regulation, and safety in a rapidly evolving mobility landscape.

Active Travel to School

Despite its wide-ranging benefits, Active Travel to School remains low due to safety concerns, infrastructure gaps, and limited school resources. A more coordinated, long-term approach is needed, one that integrates planning, education, and investment to support safe, independent travel for students.

The proposed advocacy positions were endorsed by the Infrastructure Policy Team on 4 August.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY STATE COUNCILLORS (UNDER SEPARATE COVER)

Items Under Separate Cover to State Council only.

9 POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY TEAM REPORT

By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager, Infrastructure

FOR NOTING

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the Infrastructure Policy Team at its meetings held on 2 July and 4 August 2025.

1. Matters for State Council Decision

Proposed policy positions in relation to active transport are included in the Agenda for decision (see [State Council Agenda item 8.6](#)).

2. Matters for State Council Noting

The Policy Team discussed and provided recommendations in relation to the following matters:

- Telecommunications policy and advocacy
 - Matters referred from Zones regarding mobile and broadband capacity, reliability and coverage.
 - Negotiations with Telstra, InfraCo, and the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development regarding deploying generators to telecommunications sites with automatic transfer units (ATUs).
- Draft Community Infrastructure Advocacy Position.
- Parliamentary Inquiry into the Safety Regulation and penalties associated with the use of eRideables.
- Advocacy in response to Western Power delays in new connections and work on the electricity distribution network.
- Advocacy for accelerating the underground power and LED streetlight programs.

9.2 PEOPLE AND PLACE POLICY TEAM REPORT

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy

FOR NOTING

The People and Place Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- *Community*
- *Emergency Management*

This Report provides an update on matters considered since the last State Council meeting by the People and Place Policy Team at its meeting held on 9 July.

3. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION

Advocacy Position Review

The Policy Team recommends that Health Advocacy Position 3.2 be rescinded ([State Council Agenda item 8.5](#)). This position has been superseded by recent revisions to Advocacy Position 3.2.1 regarding public health. Advocacy Positions can be viewed in the [WALGA Advocacy Position Manual](#).

The People and Place Policy Team also endorsed the proposed updates:

- Replace advocacy positions 3.7.2 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund and 3.7.1 Community Infrastructure with a combined Community Infrastructure position ([State Council Agenda item 8.3](#)).
- Replace Advocacy Position 3.2.2 Regional Health Services with an updated Rural and Remote Health Services position ([State Council Agenda item 8.4](#)).

4. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING

The Policy Team noted the following items for noting in the July State Council Agenda, including:

Item 8.3	Public Library Agreement
Item 9.2	People and Place Policy Team Report
Item 10.4	WALGA Bushfire Management Roundtable
Item 11.1.4	Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio

5. PEOPLE AND PLACE POLICY TEAM MATTERS

Presentation by the Commissioner for Children and Young People

Commissioner for Children and Young People, Ms Jacqueline McGowan-Jones, attended the People and Place Policy Team meeting and provided an overview of the Commission's work and discussed matters relating to the Gaccoyne Zone's resolution.

Gascoyne Zone Resolution – Indigenous Land Use Agreements for Towns/Cities

The Policy Team considered and considered the Gascoyne Zone resolution on Indigenous Land Use Agreements and agreed that WALGA will:

1. *Request to participate in the Review of Native Title and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Processes in WA.*
2. *Engage with the new Native Future Acts Unit once established within the Department of Premier and Cabinet.*
3. *Continue to raise the concerns of the sector in relation to challenges navigating native title and Aboriginal party engagement through ongoing advocacy.*

Gascoyne and Murchison Zone Resolutions on Youth Disengagement and Social Cohesion

The Policy Team considered Gascoyne and Murchison Zones' resolution regarding youth disengagement and social cohesion and agreed that WALGA will:

1. *Initially, raise these issues with the Hon Matthew Swinbourne MLA, Minister for Community Services, and the Hon Hannah Beazley BA MLA, Minister for Local Government, Youth and Gascoyne.*
2. *Assist Zones to facilitate meetings with relevant State Government regional ministers.*

Team Updates

The People and Place Policy Team received updates on the:

- actions out of the Emergency Management CEO Roundtable.
- WALGA Local Government Emergency Management Forum ([Sector Update available here](#)).

The Community team also provided the Policy Team with an update on key State Budget announcements including:

- \$104 million to expand the Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) program;
- \$101 million (to 2029-30) from the Housing Enabling Infrastructure Fund to provide water, wastewater and power infrastructure for the development of new residential land and housing (allocated for 18 water projects and three power projects);
- no long-term commitment to increase the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) or arts and cultural infrastructure;
- \$828.9 million over 2024-25 and 2025-26 on hospital services, including \$60.5 million to expand the WA Virtual ED (WAVED) initiative; and
- no changes to public library funding.

9.3 GOVERNANCE POLICY TEAM REPORT

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

FOR NOTING

The Governance Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- *Governance (Local Government legislation)*
- *Local Government Reform/Regional Service Delivery*
- *Local Government Revenue*
- *Local Government Elections*
- *Employee Relations/Industrial Relations*
- *Training*

This Report provides an update on matters considered since the last State Council meeting by the Governance Policy Team.

The Governance Policy Team have not had a meeting since the last State Council meeting in July 2025.

The Policy Team will be meeting on Monday, 11 August to consider WALGA's submission to the Department Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety on their consultation process on draft regulations and a draft Ministerial order to give effect to Communications Agreements. The submission will then be circulated to State Councillors for endorsement via Flying Agenda.

9.4 ENVIRONMENT POLICY TEAM REPORT

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy

FOR NOTING

The Environment Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- *Climate change*
- *Native vegetation and biodiversity*
- *Biosecurity*
- *Water resources*
- *Sustainability*
- *Planning and building*

This Report provides an update on matters considered since the last State Council meeting by the Environment Policy Team.

The Environment Policy Team have not had a meeting since the last State Council meeting in July 2025.

9.5 MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL (MWAC) REPORT

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste

FOR NOTING

This Report provides an update on matters considered since the last State Council meeting by the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC), at the meeting held on 9 July.

1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION

Nil.

2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING

Nil.

3. MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MATTERS

MWAC considered:

- Proposed actions for the Waste Strategy Road Map: feedback was requested from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation on some of the actions in the Draft Roadmap.
- How to encourage closed loop use of FOGO derived organic material. The focus of the discussion was on key advocacy priorities including:
 - ensuring the acceptable levels of PFAS are identified;
 - testing requirements for FOGO derived products; and
 - consistent and concise list of FOGO accepted materials.
- Polyphagous shot-hole borer and the waste management considerations relating to long term management.

MWAC received updates on:

- Review of policy statements and better practice documents
- Household Hazardous Waste Program
- Household Hazardous Waste Battery Campaign
- Launch of the Better Practice Waste Management for Public Events Guideline
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Authorised Officer Training
- Emergency waste management plan template
- Discussion regarding Local Government waste fees and charges.

10 MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

10.1 POLYPHAGOUS SHOT-HOLE BORER (PSHB): TRANSITION TO MANAGEMENT

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager Environment and Waste

FOR NOTING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- On 18 June 2025, the State Government [announced](#) the National Management Group's (NMG) decision that it was no longer technically feasible to eradicate Polyphagous Shot-hole borer (PSHB) from Western Australia and the PSHB would transition to long-term management.
- The Transition to Management (T2M) phase commenced on 1 July, and the long-term management phase will commence on 1 January 2027.
- A national T2M Plan will be in place by 1 September and workshops with Local Government, industry and community will follow.
- Costs for the T2M phase will be shared between the Australian Government and all States and Territories.
- The T2M phase aims to slow the spread of PSHB and allow time to build management knowledge through research, as well as develop a long-term management approach in collaboration with Local Government, industry and the community.
- The T2M phase will result in changes in the approach to the management of infested trees. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's (DPIRD) priority is to remove amplifier trees in Zone B and outside the Quarantine Area (QA), with a decrease in treatment activities and surveillance in Zone A.
- The State Government provisioned \$26.5 million for PSHB response in the 2025-26 State Budget. DPIRD has indicated \$2.5 million will be provided to Local Governments in the inner QA for tree management during the T2M period, with details to be determined in consultation with the sector.
- \$2.17 million has been allocated to fund three PSHB research projects through the WA Agricultural Research Collaboration, focused on early detection, treatment and management options.
- WALGA will continue to reiterate to Government that the expectation of Local Government is that the intent of the T2M and Management phase is that the spread of PSHB will be stopped and there will be sufficient and sustained research and funding to manage this pest long term.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This item relates to the following [advocacy positions](#):

4.4 Post Border 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 ensuring 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.*

4.7 Polyphagous shot-hole borer

The Local Government sector:

- 1. Recognises the significant threat the Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) represents to the growth and retention of urban forests;*
- 2. Recognises the importance of shared surveillance by government, industry and community to assist with eradication efforts; and*
- 3. Advocates for State Government funding for trees lost due to PSHB and to ameliorate the long term urban canopy impact.*

BACKGROUND

PSHB was first detected in East Fremantle in September 2021. Since then, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) has been leading a nationally funded and coordinated biosecurity response focused on eradication. On 19 June 2025, the [State Government announced](#) that the National Management Group had determined that the eradication of PSHB was no longer technically feasible and that the decision had been made to transition to long-term management.

The PSHB Transition to Management (T2M) phase commenced on 1 July 2025, and a national T2M Plan will be in place by 1 September 2025. Costs for the T2M phase will be shared between the Australian Government and all States and Territories under the national cost sharing arrangement. The T2M phase aims to slow the spread of PSHB and allow time to build management knowledge through research, as well as develop a long-term management approach in collaboration with Local Government, industry and the community. During the T2M PSHB Quarantine Area (QA), restrictions will remain in place. The T2M phase will result in changes in the approach to the management of infested trees. DPIRD's priority is to remove amplifier trees in Zone B and outside the Quarantine Area (QA), with a decrease in treatment activities and surveillance in Zone A. There will be a continued focus on slowing the spread of PSHB outside the (QA) through continued surveillance and high-risk tree management in Zone B (the outer zone).

The overall quantum of funding for the T2M under the national cost sharing arrangement has not been made public. The State Government provisioned \$26.5 million for PSHB response in the 2025-26 State Budget. DPIRD has indicated \$2.5 million will be provided to Local Governments in the inner QA for tree management during the transition to management period, with details to be determined in consultation with the sector. \$2.17 million has been provided through the WA Agricultural Research Collaboration for three PSHB research projects being led by Curtin University, Murdoch University and the University of Western Australia, focused on early detection, treatment and management options.

Long-term PSHB management will commence on 1 January 2027. At the conclusion of the transition to management period, the national cost sharing arrangement will end. Under current policy settings, responsibility for long term PSHB management will then fall to the State Government, and it is likely that Local Governments and private landholders will be responsible for management of PSHB trees on their land.

COMMENT

The failure of the eradication response and move to long-term management will have significant implications for Local Governments and the community. As indicated in WALGA's [media statement](#), effective long-term PSHB management will require a significant, sustained investment from the State Government, including for Local Government.

WALGA continues to reiterate Local Government's expectation that it will be included in the development of the T2M arrangements and long-term management plan. WALGA met with the Hon Jackie Jarvis, Minister for Agriculture and Food, on 29 July 2025 to express the concerns of the sector, in particular:

- That the objective of T2M and long-term management must be to prevent the spread of PSHB beyond the QA.
- There must be further government investment into research to develop effective long-term control (and potentially eradication) measures.

- That the issues identified with the eradication response, including funding, transparency and data sharing, delays in tree removal, a lack of public awareness, the inability to undertake research and support for Local Government must be addressed going forward.
- The need for reform of the State's biosecurity system, noting the Government is yet to respond to the recommendations of the independent review of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (which have not been released publicly).
- The need for reform of national arrangements to better manage biosecurity threats such as PSHB that cannot be eradicated but pose a significant national threat to biodiversity and industry without a long-term management response.

WALGA is actively engaging with the sector, DPIRD and other stakeholders to ensure the T2M meets the needs of Local Government. On 9 July 2025 WALGA hosted a webinar with DPIRD Chief Plant Biosecurity Officer, Dr Vincent Lanoiselet attended by over 100 Local Government officers and Elected Members. WALGA is also undertaking targeted engagement with Local Government in and around the QA to gain their insights and requirements for the T2M and beyond.

WALGA is also a member of the WA Tree Recovery Advisory Group, which last met on 4 July to discuss the funding to Local Governments impacted by PSHB through round 1 of the Local Government Grant Program, which provides \$7.2 million over four years for replanting initiatives and closed on 7 July 2025. Applicants will be advised on the outcome of their applications in September 2025. The WA Government also launched the WA Tree Recovery [Residential Rebate Program](#) and [Treebate Program](#) on 26 July 2025.

10.2 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SURVEY

By Sam Kennedy, Senior Policy Advisor – Emergency Management

FOR NOTING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA conducts a biennial Emergency Management Survey of Local Governments to better understand the priorities and challenges faced by the sector, and to seek feedback on key issues to inform WALGA policy development and advocacy.
- Previous emergency management surveys were conducted in 2019, 2021 and, most recently, in 2023.
- The 2025 Emergency Management Survey is anticipated to open in September.
- The Survey will be sent directly to all Local Governments and will remain open for 4–6 weeks.
- Anticipated focus areas for the 2025 Survey include:
 - Local Government Bushfire Brigade Management;
 - transitioning from response-focused to holistic emergency management;
 - cultural heritage considerations in emergency management; and
 - reform of the Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGS).
- The 2025 Survey findings will be presented to State Council and shared with the sector and key stakeholders.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This submission is relevant to the suite of [WALGA's emergency management advocacy positions, 8.1 – 8.11](#), and is aligned to the Influence and Support pillars of WALGA's 2025-2029 Strategic Plan.

BACKGROUND

102 Local Governments completed the 2023 survey (a 75% response rate). The 2023 Survey generated valuable insights that shaped WALGA's Election Priorities and key submissions, including on the revised State Hazard Plan Fire, the State Recovery Framework, and the Commonwealth Review of Natural Disaster Funding. WALGA is collaborating with key stakeholders to refine focus areas for 2025, including through the WALGA Local Government Emergency Management Advisory Group.

COMMENT

The WALGA biennial Emergency Management Survey is an important opportunity to identify and quantify emergency management challenges across the Local Government sector. It is the only survey of its kind undertaken by a Local Government Association in Australia.

The 2025 Survey results will be used to inform WALGA's emergency management advocacy and submissions and to elevate the profile of Local Government emergency management activities and responsibilities.

10.3 WALGA 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FORUM

By Sam Kennedy, Senior Policy Advisor - Emergency Management

FOR NOTING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The WALGA 2025 Local Government Emergency Management Forum was held on 17 June 2025 at the City of Stirling.
- With the theme *Local Government Future Proof: Preparing today for tomorrow's challenges*, the Forum provided an opportunity for participants to enhance capabilities, build insights, and share strategies for emergency management.
- 148 people attended the Forum, with representation from 41 Local Governments, alongside key stakeholders from State and Federal Government, industry and not-for-profit organisations.
- A Sector Update on the Forum has been circulated to WALGA members, attached.

ATTACHMENT

[Sector Update - WALGA 2025 Local Government Emergency Management Forum](#)

BACKGROUND

The 2025 Local Government Emergency Management Forum was hosted by WALGA on 17 June 2025 at the City of Stirling. WALGA had not hosted an emergency management focused forum in many years. The decision to host the 2025 Forum reflects the critical role that Local Governments have in emergency management, and the importance of sharing leading information and contemporary challenges to continue to strengthen emergency management capabilities and partnerships.

COMMENT

Following the Forum, participants were invited to complete a post-event survey. Participants rated the forum's content as highly informative and engaging, with over 90 per cent of respondents expressing their intention to attend future WALGA events. Additionally, respondents highlighted the forum's networking value, rating it highly for facilitating new connections and strengthening existing relationships in emergency management. Participants have also provided suggestions for future forum topics, including: strategies to maximise the effectiveness of Local Emergency Management Committees; discussions on change management and volunteer management/engagement; and sharing lessons learned from recovery funding processes.

WALGA intends that the Forum will become a regular event.

11 ORGANISATION REPORTS

11.1 KEY ACTIVITY REPORTS

11.1.1 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, ADVOCACY PORTFOLIO

By Rachel Horton, Executive Manager Advocacy

FOR NOTING

The Advocacy Portfolio comprises the following work units:

- *Marketing*
- *Communications*
- *Media*
- *Events*

The following outlines the activities of the Advocacy Portfolio since the July 2025 State Council meeting.

1. MARKETING

Local Government Election Campaign

Planning is well underway for the Local Government Election Campaign with the creative approach and media strategy endorsed by LGIRS. A statewide campaign has been designed to launch in August, with all creative directing to a bespoke microsite. The objectives are twofold, to both encourage diversity of candidate nominations and voter participation.

Event marketing

In addition to digital marketing to promote WALGA events, numerous print, animation and signage assets have been developed to support functions throughout June and July.

The Emergency Management Forum marketing campaign delivered strong results, with targeted eDMs and sector newsletters driving 40% of the campaign traffic to the event page and resulting in registrations exceeding target.

A segmented approach was taken for the Transport and Roads forum with three different messages sent to three audience segments, with tailored content to each group's interest. This had a direct positive effect with one eDM reaching a 16% click rate, far surpassing the usual benchmark of 4%.

Sophisticated assets were produced for the Local Government Awards including premium certificates, custom animated digital slides and a high-quality Honours commemorative booklet.

Ongoing Battery Waste Disposal Campaign

Following positive engagement, WALGA and DWER have agreed to extend the Battery Waste Disposal campaign for another two months. The campaign has already reached 1.28 million Meta accounts and led close to 10,000 Western Australians to use the tool to find their nearest drop-off point.

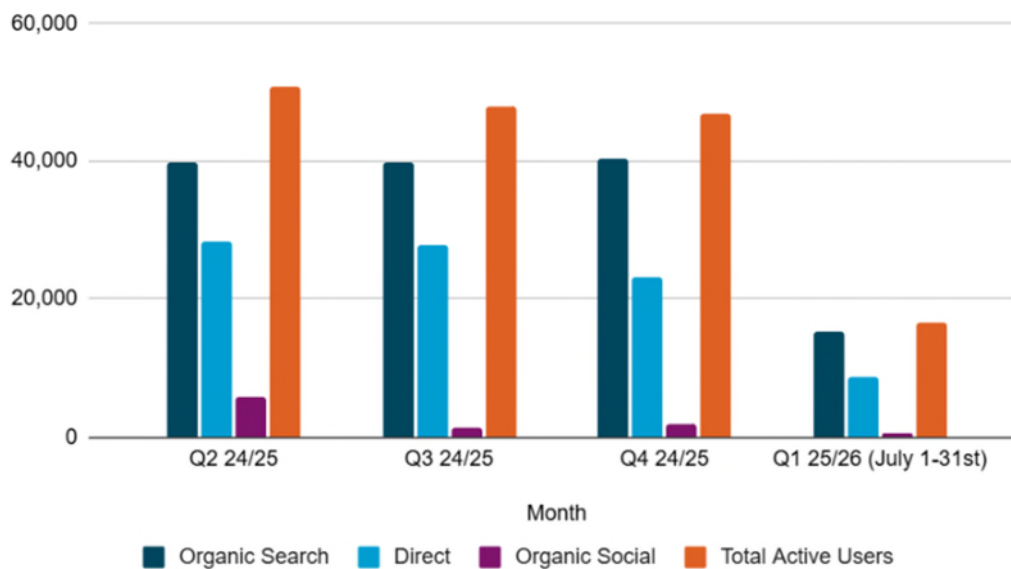
Website

NB: Partial Period: 1–31 July 2025

With one month of Q1 2025/26 complete, early indicators suggest the website performance is on track to achieve results similar to Q1 24/25, where Organic Search reached 53,000 sessions and Total Active Users were approximately 45,000. This equates to an average of 15,000 unique visitors a month to the WALGA website.

Organic Search remains the strongest contributor which is a testament to the relevant content on the WALGA site. (Google naturally ranking WALGA content above other sites.) Direct traffic is performing steadily and we anticipate further uplift as planned marketing activities roll out.

Quarterly Web Traffic by Source



Member Portal

The Member Portal project is in the scoping phase with three WALGA workshops held by the external partner, WP Consulting, and one with the sector. The next phase is for the supplier to develop a scope of work along with a quote for the design and build.

2. COMMUNICATIONS

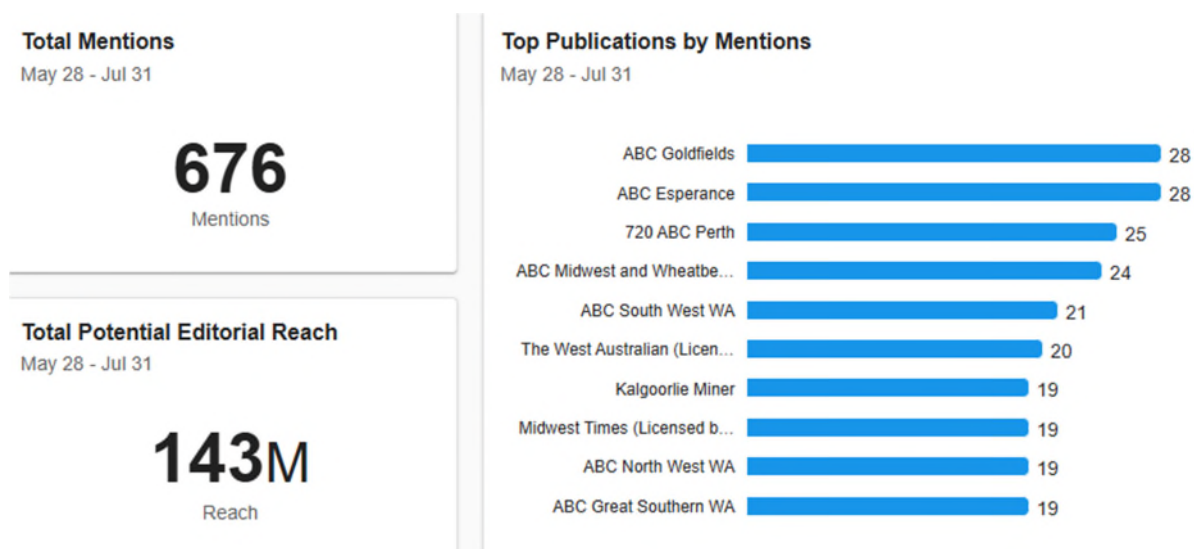
Multiple internal and external communications were prepared throughout the reporting period.

- 10 LG Direct weekly newsletters distributed to over 2,000 Elected Members and senior staff
- Development of WALGA's Western Councillor Magazine
- WALGA's Quarterly Economic Briefing
- State Budget Analysis 2025-26.

3. MEDIA

Following proactive and responsive PR there were 676 mentions of WALGA and President Karen Chappel AM JP between Wednesday, 28 May – Thursday, 31 July 2025. This is an increase from 5 mentions a day in the previous reporting period to 9 mentions a day.

The majority of mentions were from ABC Goldfields, closely followed by ABC Esperance and ABC Perth Radio.



Earned Media

WALGA has received 43 requests for comment across print, radio, television and online media, which is double the number of queries from the last period. Queries varied greatly across policy areas and legislation from Tree recovery funding to PetsWA. rates, DAPs and SAR ruling on LPP.

All of these opportunities highlight WALGA's position as a recognised and trusted voice on Local Government matters.

Top Advocacy mainstream media mentions by reach:

- Library advocacy – 16.8m
- PetsWA – 14.7m
- Renewable Energy – 1m

Media Releases:

WALGA released nine proactive media statements regarding Governance, Renewable Energy, Planning, Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer, coastal erosion and the Local Government Awards.

- [WALGA responds to commentary regarding Auditor General's Report on Local Government Management of Purchasing Cards](#) – 5 June 2025
- [WALGA welcomes Draft Guideline on Community Benefits for Renewable Energy Projects and continues to advocate for Local Government involvement](#) – 12 June 2025

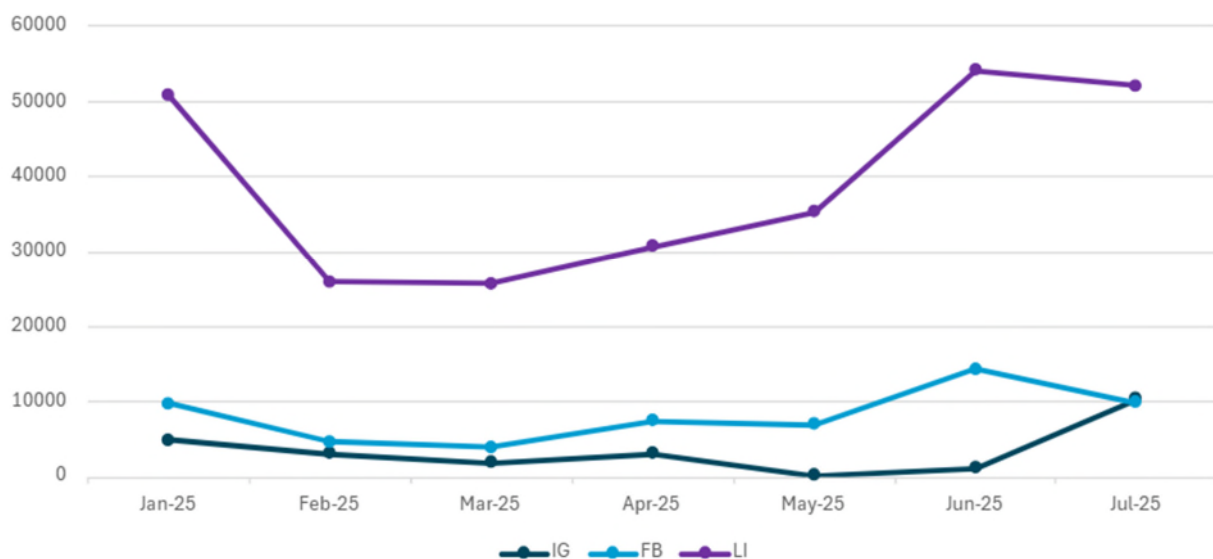
- [WALGA response to State Budget 2025-26](#) – 19 June 2025
- [WALGA welcomes State Government's R-Code Review](#) – 19 June 2025
- [WALGA disappointed as Polyphagous Shot-hole Borer response transitions to management phase](#) – 19 June 2025
- [WALGA releases Renewable Energy Community Benefits and Engagement Guide](#) – 8 July 2025
- [Supreme Court decision supports critical role of Local Government](#) – 10 July 2025
- [A celebration of excellence at WALGA's 2025 Local Government Awards](#) – 20 July 2025
- [WALGA welcomes CoastWA grants and calls on State Government to take greater action to address coastal hazards](#) – 23 July 2025

Social Media

Meta is no longer tracking overall engagement hence the Advocacy portfolio is now utilising post impressions as a key performance indicator for social media until Meta releases new metrics. Engagement is preferable as it indicates the level of interaction followers are making with content, however due to the rise in video content and reels Meta is shifting its metrics towards reach and conversions to measure success.

It is clear to see throughout the year that LinkedIn far outperforms Facebook and Instagram in terms of impressions, however this is not surprising given the purpose of the platform. Sponsored content on Facebook and Instagram would address impressions however reduces credibility with the audience.

Social Media Post Impressions



4. EVENTS

A significant number of events were delivered throughout June and July 2025 including:

- Renewable Energy Forum – 12 June
- Elected Member Alumni Sundowner (Inaugural) – 12 June
- Emergency Management Forum (Inaugural) – 17 June
- ALGA NGA Booth & Sundowner – 23 June
- Local Government Awards – 19 July
- People and Culture Seminar – 25 July
- Certificate III Virtual Graduation – 29 July

Emergency Management Forum

The inaugural Local Government Emergency Management Forum was a great success with over 140 registrations. Delegates provided overwhelmingly positive feedback, particularly highlighting keynote speakers Dr Jill Charker (NEMA) and James Ashley (BoM) for their insight and relevance. Strong interest was expressed in attending similar forums in the future, indicating demand for this type of focused, sector-specific event.

Local Government Awards

The Local Government Awards was a sold-out event with 240 guests in attendance.

The event provided an opportunity to formally recognise outstanding individuals and teams, with winners celebrating their achievements alongside colleagues, family and friends. Attended by the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Hannah Beazley MLA and Director General Lanie Chopping, the event also gained media attention.

Feedback continued to support the decision to host the Awards as a stand-alone event, allowing adequate time to appropriately acknowledge award recipients.

Planning is now underway for the following upcoming events:

- Transport & Roads Forums (14 August)
- Local Government Convention (22-24 September)
- Showcase in Pixels (year-end)
- WALGA Wrap (year-end).

11.1.2 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO

By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure

FOR NOTING

The Infrastructure Portfolio comprises the following work units:

- *Roads*
- *Road Funding*
- *Transport*
- *Asset Management*
- *Utilities*
- *Road Safety*

The following outlines the activities of the Infrastructure Portfolio since the last State Council meeting.

1. ROADS

Transport and Roads Forum

Finalising arrangements for the 2025 Transport and Roads Forum held in August was a key activity during the reporting period. Events such as this provide an opportunity for Local Government leaders to engage with government policy makers and key stakeholders to influence future directions.

Local Government Transport and Roads Research and Innovation Program (LGTRRIP)

Work progressed on two new projects: an investigation into technologies for best practice road condition assessments and data collection; and the development of a road safety rating tool for intersections.

Condition Assessment of Roads of Regional Significance

Field work for the road condition survey in the Kimberley region was completed. The final report remains outstanding. When received, this will mark completion of condition assessments of all Local Government Roads of Regional Significance in WA, outside of the metropolitan region.

Road Rail Interface Agreements

A model pro forma agreement between Local Governments and Arc Infrastructure has been drafted and agreed. A memorandum outlining what has changed between the old and new agreements, the main issues of contention, their resolution, and other key updates was provided to all Local Governments hosting Arc Infrastructure operated rail in July 2025. Arc Infrastructure has commenced providing proposed agreements to Local Governments.

Rail Interface Agreements have been required since 2010 with the details now set out under the *Rail Safety National Law (WA) 2024*.

2. ROAD FUNDING

Multi-Criteria Assessment (MCA) Model Revisions

The WALGA Infrastructure Team is working with the Regional Road Groups to harmonise the MCA models used by Regional Road Groups to prioritise projects for Road Project Grant funding. The proposed changes to the MCA models reflect the new focus areas of the State Roads Funds to Local Governments Agreement, while still allowing for flexibility to recognise the significant differences between regions. All the Regional Road Groups have commenced the MCA revision process, with the process in the Gascoyne, Great Southern, and SW region now complete. Significant progress has been made in each of the other regions.

3. TRANSPORT

Active Transport and Micromobility-Discussion Paper

Building on the outcomes of the two stakeholder workshops and the associated discussion paper, WALGA has developed a series of proposed policy positions to support Active Transport initiatives across the Local Government sector. These draft positions reflect the key insights and priorities identified through engagement and will form the basis for WALGA's ongoing policy development and advocacy in this area.

Aviation and Airports

The Association met with officers from the Department of Transport to discuss the budget outcomes for State investment in regional Local Government airports through the Regional Airports Development Scheme (RADS) and other programs. The Department is committed to regular pavement condition monitoring to inform long term planning and State investment priorities. Local Government managed airports including Eucla, Onslow, Kununurra Carnarvon and Fitzroy Crossing were identified for funding in the 2025-26 budget.

4. ASSET MANAGEMENT

Road Assets and Expenditure Report Project

A project to identify options to improve data collection, interpretation and presentation of information concerning Local Government road assets and expenditure progressed. A study detailing the current processes used to develop the Road Asset and Expenditure Report was completed and work is ongoing to prepare tender materials and commence the project to deliver a new, contemporary process. This phase will include the development of a database, reporting interface, and dashboard.

Review of the WALGA Road Visual Condition Assessment Manual

The WALGA Road Visual Condition Manual was published in 2016. Significant technology advances and stakeholder feedback have triggered the need for a review and update. Consultants, CivilSE, have been appointed to undertake the review, which will include comprehensive consultation with users, and preparing a second edition. This manual provides important support to Local Government road managers and provides the framework for being able to understand the condition of the road network statewide.

5. UTILITIES

Western Power

The Association focussed on engaging with the senior management and Distribution Connection Services teams at Western Power, seeking reduced delivery times for projects that require work to be undertaken by the electricity distributor. Long wait times for

designs, quotes and construction are delaying a wide range of road projects and other developments.

A Local Government officers forum was strongly supported and provided information about ways to use the Western Power portal to monitor projects and communicate with Western Power. A commitment was made to re-introduce the option for Local Governments to directly engage consultants and contractors to do a trial of thirty streetlighting projects from September, with the view to potentially expanding this if successful. Western Power have engaged additional consultant and contractor resources to improve turnaround times. However, no targets for particular types of work were agreed.

Streetlighting

An initial meeting between the Economic Regulation Authority, Synergy and Western Power was held to discuss high level changes to the streetlight services structure that could be considered for the next Western Power regulatory Access Arrangement (AA6) commencing in 2028.

The Association has been advised that engagement with Local Governments regarding the next tranche of the Proactive Streetlight Replacement Program and revision of the Streetlight Asset Management Plan cannot proceed until a public announcement of the program by the Minister for Energy. This timing is unknown.

Telecommunications

Discussions continue with Department Primary Industry and Regional Development, Telstra and InfraCo concerning the processes and agreements to deploy back-up power generators to telecommunications facilities equipped with automatic transfer units (ATU). Defining practical arrangements and assigning risk are key considerations.

Association staff met with advisers to the Federal Minister for Communications, Hon Anika Wells MP, to follow up submissions made to the 2024 Regional Telecommunications Review, current Government programs and the commitments made during the Federal election campaign.

6. ROAD SAFETY

Road Safety Council

The Road Safety Council met on 14 March and 13 June 2025. The Council's Communiques can be viewed at [Road Safety Council Meeting Communiques](#)

RoadWise Recognised

Seventy-five Local Governments are registered RoadWise Councils. The RoadWise Recognised Advisory Committee met in May and August 2025. Points, which signify road safety actions undertaken, were considered for 72 (95%) of RoadWise Councils who together recorded more than 200 activities each quarter. The Points that were allocated reflected actions delivered across the different areas of the [RoadWise Framework](#). The spread of activity demonstrates how holistic the approach to road safety across governance, management, and operations has been and is acknowledged with the awarding of RoadWise Recognised Ribbons, up to a maximum of five. In this way, the allocation of Points and Ribbons is designed to encourage local road safety toward better and ultimately best practice.

At the 2025 WALGA Local Government Awards on 19 July, 10 RoadWise Councils; the shires of Broome, Capel, Dowerin, Dundas, Exmouth, Jerramungup, Quairading, along with the Town of Claremont and Cities of Greater Geraldton and Karratha were acknowledged for achieving the largest increase in level of activity recorded for their regional road group and the Shire of Dowerin received the WA RoadWise Council perpetual trophy for achieving the largest increase in level of activity recorded across all RoadWise Councils. The 2025 Ribbon Status for all RoadWise Councils was revealed with five RoadWise Councils, the Shire of Harvey, Shire of Manjimup, City of Rockingham, City of South Perth and Shire of Wyalkatchem receiving a Five-Ribbon status. A full breakdown of the 2025 Ribbons can be viewed [here](#).

11.1.3 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, MEMBER SERVICES PORTFOLIO

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

FOR NOTING

The Member Services Portfolio comprises the following work units:

- *Association and Corporate Governance*
- *Commercial Services*
- *Commercial Development and Management (Preferred Supplier Program)*
- *Employee Relations*
- *Governance and Procurement*
- *Training*

The following outlines the activities of the Member Services Portfolio since the July State Council meeting.

1. ASSOCIATION AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

2025 WALGA Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The 2025 WALGA AGM will be held on Tuesday, 23 September at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre as part of the Local Government Convention. Attendance at the AGM is free for all Local Government Elected Members and officers, however registration is essential.

Each Member Local Government is entitled to be represented by two Voting Delegates at the AGM. Local Government CEOs have been sent a link to register their delegates. For further information, please visit the [WALGA website](#).

2. COMMERCIAL

Following completion of a new round of PSP tenders, approximately 120 new Preferred Suppliers have been added to the WALGA supplier lists. Details are maintained as current on the [Preferred Supplier Directory](#).

PSP development work is being undertaken to enhance the scope of the Professional Services Panel.

A project to tender to Aboriginal Business and enhance the PSP supplier options on the WALGA program is being advanced.

A project to support the procurement of ERP and Council Business Systems through the WALGA PSP is near completion. Significant new resources to support the scoping, quotation and contracting processes will be available.

The Energy Project is exploring a new Demand Side Management opportunity and also enhancing reporting capabilities.

A legal review to update the Member Contract Conditions for the PSP contract templates has commenced.

ARENA/EV Projects

The ARENA project continues to progress through a reporting and knowledge-sharing phase. There are no significant matters to update.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Project

The Sector AI Readiness Assessment is now nearing completion.

The Strategy Group and Cygence have delivered several detailed draft reports, set to be reviewed over coming weeks.

The initial findings illustrate significant variation across the sector, with some Local Governments on the leading edge of developing software integrating new use cases for AI. Some findings for the sector and WALGA's internal readiness indicate common strengths and areas for capability-building.

Following review and finalisation, WALGA will report findings back to the sector.

3. EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

WALGA ER continues to represent the sector in a number of applications in the WA Industrial Relations Commission (WAIRC) including:

Applications CICS 5, 8 and 9 of 2023 - Union demarcation dispute

Application IAC 2 of 2025 - Industrial Appeal Court appeal

These applications relate to a dispute over coverage of Local Government employees between three unions, the Western Australian Municipal, Administrative, Clerical and Services Union of Employees (WASU), Local Government, Racing and Cemeteries Employees Union (LGRCEU) and the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union of Workers (CFMEUW).

The matter has had 20 hearing days to date in July and October 2024. WASU, LGRCEU and WALGA completed their cases with the exception of one WALGA witness (unavailable during that time). The CFMEUW evidence is still to be completed. A further five weeks has been listed from late October 2025.

During the hearing in October 2024 the CFMEUW made a number of applications:

- The first application was to dismiss the matter, which the Commission rejected and dismissed.
- The second application was for discovery of documents from WALGA and the WASU, which the Commission ordered and WALGA and WASU complied with. WALGA and WASU have claimed privilege over these documents (**Privilege Claim**).
- A further application for discovery of documents from WALGA, WASU and the LGRCEU. In response the WASU, LGRCEU and WALGA applied to dismiss the CFMEUW's second application for production of documents. This was dismissed by the CICS on 26 March 2025 (**Dismissal Decision**).

The CFMEUW have lodged an appeal to the Industrial Appeal Court (**IAC**) against the Dismissal Decision (IAC 2/2025). Programming orders have been issued but a hearing date has not been set and is unlikely to be before November 2025. The IAC is comprised of three WA Supreme Judges.

The Privilege Claim was heard by the CICS as an interlocutory matter on 28 May 2025. The CICS issued a decision on 11 July 2025, upholding the claims of legal professional privilege and accordingly no orders for production of these documents will occur.

The various applications for production of documents by the CFMEUW and to dismiss the matter have caused significant delays to the substantive matter in this case and result in continued uncertainty in the Local Government sector generally as to the CFMEUW's coverage and role.

Application APPL 164 of 2024

An application was made by the WASU through s80BH of the *Industrial Relations Act 1979* (WA) (IR Act) to be named to the Local Government Industrial Award – Industrial Agreement (LGIA-IA) which is an instrument that transitioned to the State Industrial Relations system. If WASU is named to the LGIA-IA it is then able to take action to enforce the instrument, but more importantly the WASU could 'retire' it under s. 41(7) of the IR Act and the state awards would then apply.

Sixty Local Governments were named to APPL 164 of 2024 and WALGA directly represented the Shire of Dundas (lead Local Government) as their industrial agent in this matter and assisted other named Local Governments.

The matter was heard on 13 May 2025. The Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) on behalf of the Minister for Industrial Relations applied and was granted leave to intervene in the hearing of this matter. The position put forward by the Minister was consistent with WALGA's position.

The decision was delivered on 23 June 2025, finding that:

- Each Local Government has its own separate industrial agreement with the same terms as the LGIA.
- WASU's application was misconceived, as no single multi-employer agreement exists.
- To be named as a party, WASU must apply individually in respect of each LGIA-NSI.

On 26 June 2025, the Commission dismissed WASU's application. This decision provides important clarity on the structure of industrial instruments post-transition, reinforcing the enterprise-level focus of the WA industrial relations framework.

4. GOVERNANCE AND PROCUREMENT

Communications Agreements

The Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) is inviting feedback on draft regulations and orders that would require Local Governments to establish a Communications Agreement.

WALGA provided a Discussion Paper and sought feedback from Members to assist develop a sector-wide submission. WALGA's consultation closed on 28 July.

The Governance Policy Team will meet in early August to consider WALGA's draft submission, prior to it being considered by State Council as a Flying Minute.

The LGIRS consultation closes on 22 August and Local Governments are encouraged to provide submissions direct.

Local Government Elections

Working Group:

WALGA continues to represent Members' interests in an Elections Working Group convened by LGIRS), and which includes the WA Electoral Commission. The Working Group supports the planning and conduct of elections.

Public Notice Program:

WALGA is once again coordinating the Public Notices Program for the 2025 Local Government Elections. This Program is designed to support Local Governments who have not declared the WA Electoral Commission responsible for the conduct of their election in meeting public notice requirements for the upcoming elections. This program supports 10 Class 3 and Local Governments.

Candidate briefings:

WALGA, together with LGIRS and the WA Electoral Commission, will host a Statewide Elections Candidate Information Webinar on Monday, 18 August from 6:00pm, ahead of the opening of nominations for the 2025 Local Government Elections. For details and registration, please visit the [WALGA website](#).

In addition to the webinar, WALGA is delivering local candidate briefing presentations. As of 31 July, one session has been held in Mount Magnet. A further 12 presentations are scheduled or pending confirmation throughout August, covering both metropolitan and regional locations.

Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees – EOI

WALGA is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced persons to be included in a Pool from which Local Governments may select persons for appointment to their Local Government's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee in the roles of:

- Independent Presiding Member
- Independent Deputy of the Presiding Member
- Independent Deputy Presiding Member (optional)

The Pool will be available to all Local Governments, enabling the Local Government to identify potential candidates, evaluate credentials, and determine to appoint independent Committee members at their own discretion.

For details and the EOI Invitation and Respondent Forum, please visit the [WALGA website](#).

Procurement Network Forum

Approximately 65 Local Government officers attended the WALGA Procurement Network Forum (PNF) hosted by the City of Mandurah on 22 July. The focus of the PNF was Contract Management. A number of presentations were provided:

- The City of Mandurah presented on their new Contract Management Framework with its focus on productivity, role clarity and cost effectiveness.
- The City of Vincent presented on their Contract Management journey, with a focus on their Contracts Register.

Planning is currently underway for a PNF in conjunction with the WALGA Convention on *Managing Procurement Risk in an Uncertain World* (24 September 2025).

Office of the Auditor General Liaison

WALGA met with the Officer of the Auditor General (OAG) to discuss the Local Government Management of Purchasing Cards audit. WALGA guides and templates regarding purchasing cards are being revised to reflect the findings and recommendations for best practice.

The OAG has accepted an invitation to speak at the next Procurement Network Forum on this matter.

5. TRAINING

With the upcoming Local Government elections in October 2025, WALGA Training is preparing for a busy season ahead.

The new Diploma of Local Government (Planning) starts off on 31 July and 1 August, with a two-day workshop at WALGA. We have received seven registrations and are excited to see this first group start their Diploma journey.

The Jacqui Dodd Scholarship is now open and will close on 15 August. The four scholarships will be awarded at the AGM, together with the graduation ceremony for our Diploma of Local Government - Elected Member students. The next intake of the Diploma of Local Government – Elected Member program has already received lots of interest, and we are working for a full class in November 2025.

WALGA's Training Team contributed to the People and Culture Seminar on 25 July with a session on "Why invest in upskilling your workforce". Guylaine Thibodeau, People and Culture Officer at the Town of Mosman Park shared with the audience the remarkable story on how the town has invested into a successful strategy, training new employees with a vision to improve retention, fostering diversity and inclusion, supporting youth employment, and expanding their talent pipeline. Sienna Smith shared her story as a Trainee/Student, studying the Certificate III in Local Government and how she has blossomed during the past nine months.

11.1.4 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, POLICY PORTFOLIO

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy

FOR NOTING

The Policy Portfolio comprises the following work units:

- *Economics*
- *Environment and Waste*
- *Planning and Building*
- *Emergency Management*
- *Community*

The following outlines the activities of the Policy Portfolio since the July 2025 State Council meeting.

1. ECONOMICS

Renewable Energy Submission

The State Government released a draft Guideline on Community Benefits Consultation Paper for comment on 12 June 2025. WALGA prepared a draft submission aligned to WALGA's renewable energy advocacy for Members. Local Governments were provided 4 weeks to provide feedback on the draft WALGA submission, from 26 June to 25 July 2025. 48 Local Governments provided feedback, including a joint submission on the Consultation Paper from 36 regional Local Governments. All Local Governments were also encouraged to provide their own submissions to the State Government. The draft submission was provided to State Council for endorsement by Flying Minute ahead of the State Government's deadline of 18 August 2025.

State Budget

Treasurer Hon Rita Saffioti MLA delivered the 2025-26 State Budget on 19 June 2025. WALGA participated in the State Budget lockup, conducting a comprehensive review of the budget papers to evaluate their impact on Western Australian Local Governments. A summary of key announcements and detailed analysis was shared with all members on Budget night.

WALGA advocated for Local Government priorities through The West at its Best platform and was pleased to see funding provided in areas of importance to the sector, including:

- \$250 million for the Regional Road Safety Program
- An additional \$18.5 million over the forward estimates to increase the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme fuel subsidy rate from \$0.26 per kilometre to \$0.40 per kilometre
- \$8.5 million over 2025-26 and 2026-27 to install signalised pedestrian crossings at high-risk locations across the State
- \$3.5 million over 2025-26 to 2028-29 to expand the existing Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) Program by six Local Government employed CESMs
- An additional \$62.6 million over 2024-25 to 2027-28 on biosecurity incident and emergency management response activities
- A further \$5 million over 2025-26 to 2028-29 to support the establishment of the Office of the Local Government Inspector, bringing total funding to \$10.5 million over five years.

Further analysis is available on the [WALGA website](#).

Economic Briefing

WALGA released its latest Economic Briefing in June, focusing on the increasing global trade tensions and their potential impact on the Australian economy. Also under the spotlight was the June 19 State Budget and the forecasts for economic growth in the coming years. The Economic Briefing is available on the [WALGA website](#).

2. ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE

H5 Bird Flu

WALGA continues to engage with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and other agencies on the development of the WA Response Plan for H5 Bird Flu. WALGA held a webinar on 8 July 2025, attended by 116 representatives from Local Governments across WA. WALGA's cross-organisational H5 Bird Flu Team is making progress to ensure the right tools, processes, and mechanisms are in place for the organisation and Local Government. This has included identifying potential preferred suppliers to assist with clean-up surge capacity.

All Local Governments have been requested to provide WALGA with a H5 Bird Flu contact to allow WALGA to quickly and effectively communicate on this emerging issue. To date, responses have been received from 24 Local Governments.

Native Vegetation

Advocacy and capacity building activities in relation to Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations are continuing, including WALGA hosting a Native Vegetation Regulations Masterclass on 30 July 2025 and a [webinar series](#) on each element of the process in September / October.

Cat Containment

WALGA, working with the Feral Cat Working Group, hosted a webinar on 12 June 2025, with nearly 200 attendees from across Local Government. This work is building on the AGM Motion and is a cross-organisational effort between the Policy and Member Services Portfolio. WALGA hosted a further engagement session on 5 August, allowing for more detailed discussions. In addition, WALGA has written again to the Local Government Minister, highlighting the AGM motion and the need for action.

3. PLANNING AND BUILDING

Tree Retention on Private Land

In the recent decision *Zorzi and Town of Cambridge [2025] WASAT 77*, the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) held that the removal of a single existing tree constitutes development and therefore requires development approval. This marks the first instance where SAT has classified the removal of a single tree in an urban context as development. The decision underscores the importance of a clear local planning framework, such as the WALGA Tree Retention Model LPP, in outlining when approval is necessary for tree removal.

The LPP has been adopted by six Local Governments to date, with a further three advertising the policy for adoption. The data collected from the adopting Local Governments shows that of the 37 development applications for tree removal, 89% have

been approved. Across these sites, 60 regulated trees were retained and 59 removed. Data collected will inform a scheduled review of the LPP.

Performance Monitoring Project and Dashboard Updates

The ninth iteration of the WALGA Local Government Planning and Building Performance Monitoring Project has commenced, with approximately 50 participating Local Governments for the 2024-25 financial year. The 2023-24 data is available on the [Performance Monitoring Dashboard](#). The [Development Assessment Panel Dashboard](#) has been updated to include all decisions up to 30 June 2025. Further improvements to the dashboards will be made in the coming months, including the addition of a new State Significant Development Pathway page.

Amendment Regulations for the Review of Planning Instruments and draft Planning Manuals

The [Planning and Development Regulations Amendment \(Review of Planning Instruments\) Regulations 2025 \(Amendment Regulations\)](#) and supporting Draft Chapters of the WA Planning Manual - Local Planning Schemes and the Local Planning Policy (readadvertised) have been released by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) for comment until the 3 October 2025. WALGA hosted an Information Session on the consultation with the DPLH on 7 August 2025. WALGA will be providing a submission to the Amendment Regulations and draft chapters that will be considered by State Council via the flying minutes in September.

4. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management Representation

WALGA CEO Nick Sloan represented the Sector at the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) Meeting on 8 May 2025. The communique from the meeting is available [here](#). WALGA was also represented at [the Interagency Bushfire Operations Committee \(IBOC\)](#) on 28 May, the [Bushfire Operations Committee \(BOC\)](#) on 27 June and the State Bushfire Advisory Committee (SBAC) meeting on 8 July.

State Budget Overview

The 2025–26 State Budget handed down on 19 June allocated \$80.6 million to enhance fire and emergency response capabilities across Western Australia. This included funding for six new Local Government Community Emergency Services Managers and several emergency management facilities in Wanneroo, Donnybrook Balingup, Fitzroy Crossing, and Northampton. Significant investments are also being made in state-level infrastructure, including new fire stations, a bushfire mitigation branch, and an emergency management training centre. Additional funding will support the Grain Harvest Program and upgrades to the Western Australian Emergency Service Radio Network. Further information is available [here](#).

Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Pilot

In May, WALGA and DFES provided an update on the LEMA Improvement Program to the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC). WALGA's LEMA pilot project, launched in February 2025, is progressing with five Local Governments: the Shires of Manjimup, Shark Bay, Chittering, Gingin, and the City of Kwinana. The pilot is testing and refining LEMA templates and resources and gathering input to inform future guidance and tools. DFES is also developing an online Statement of Policy, a LEMA Development Framework, and trialling a new methodology for local emergency risk profiling. Despite some delays in Pilot

Local Governments, due to resource constraints and sequencing challenges, the pilot is generating valuable insights to support ongoing reform.

5. COMMUNITY

State Budget Overview

The 2025–26 State Budget confirmed the Cook election commitments of:

- \$104 million to expand the Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) program (to double the Government Regional Officer Housing construction program).
- \$101 million (to 2029-30) from the Housing Enabling Infrastructure Fund to provide water, wastewater and power infrastructure for the development of new residential land and housing (allocated for 18 water projects and three power projects).
- \$828.9 million over 2024-25 and 2025-26 on hospital services, including \$60.5 million to expand the WA Virtual ED (WAVED) initiative.

The budget did not provide any increases to public library funding or long-term commitments to increase the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) or arts and cultural infrastructure funding.

Public Health Planning Webinar Series

WALGA has developed a webinar series to support Local Governments with the development of their Local Public Health Plans (due by 4 June 2026). The program will include a minimum of six sessions; each one bringing together public health experts and Local Government champions to discuss key stages of the planning process and share examples of successful projects and initiatives.

The first webinar took place on 29 July and 56 people attended, including officers from metropolitan and country Local Governments across WA and State Government representatives. Recordings of the webinars will be published on the [WALGA website](#) for members to use on demand.

Ombudsman Reportable Conduct Scheme Investigations Workshop

On Thursday, 3 July, the Office of the Ombudsman delivered an in-person Reportable Conduct Scheme Investigations Workshop to Local Government Executives and Child Safeguarding staff. This workshop provided those already familiar with the Reportable Conduct Scheme information on how to undertake investigations into allegations of reportable conduct by Local Governments.

11.2 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The [President's Report](#) was made available at the time the Agenda was published.

FOR NOTING

11.3 CEO'S REPORT

The CEO's Report will be circulated to State Councillors with the Revised Agenda (under separate cover).

FOR NOTING

12 ADDITIONAL ZONE RESOLUTIONS

To be advised following Zone meetings.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of the WALGA State Council will be held in the Boardroom at WALGA, ONE70, LV3, 170 Railway Parade, West Leederville on Wednesday, 3 December commencing at 4:15pm.

14 CLOSURE

STATUS REPORT ON STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
2 July 2025 Item 8.1 Suspension and Disqualification for Offences Advocacy Position	That WALGA defers consideration of this matter for further work, including: a. defining appropriately serious offences for intervention; and b. addressing the role of the Local Government Inspector. c. evaluating whether advocacy for disqualification based on convictions under the Planning and Development Act 2005 and Building Act 2011 should be retained. RESOLUTION 037.3/2025	Work has commenced on defining appropriately serious offences for intervention. Consideration of how the Office of the Inspector affects this position is awaiting the release of regulations pertaining to the office.	Ongoing	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
2 July 2025 Item 8.2 State Development Applications and Decision Making Advocacy Position	That WALGA: 1. Replace Advocacy Position 6.4 Development Assessment Panels with the following: <i>WALGA calls on the State Government to:</i> 1. <i>Ensure that decision making on development applications (DAs) is:</i> a. <i>consistent and accountable</i> b. <i>accessible to local communities</i> c. <i>respectful of, and appropriately applies, local planning frameworks in line with their statutory weight, as informed by objective, professional planning reports.</i> 2. <i>Reform the Development Assessment Panel (DAP) system to:</i> a. <i>raise the DAP threshold from the current \$2 million to \$5 million and mandate periodic reviews of the threshold</i> b. <i>modify the composition of DAPs to provide equal representation of</i>	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.	July 2025	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	<p><i>Specialist Members and Local Government Members</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>c. review DAP processes to ensure proponents provide necessary information in a timely manner</i> <i>d. provide clear procedural guidance on the roles and functions of Local Government officers and Council, including clarification on the ability for the Administration to provide advice to Council Members</i> <i>e. allow access to the State Referral Coordination Unit for DAP applications to ensure timely and adequate referral responses from State Government agencies are provided to Local Governments</i> <i>f. where appropriate, require meetings to be held within the relevant Local Government</i> <i>g. reinstate the ability for Council to consider and provide a recommendation for a Responsible Authority Report.</i> <p><i>3. Abolish the state significant development assessment pathway (Part 11B of the Planning and Development Act 2005).</i></p> <p><i>4. If the significant development assessment pathway is retained, implement the following reforms:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. raise the cost threshold to \$50 million and mandate periodic reviews of the threshold</i> 			

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. align statutory timeframes with DAP and Local Government determined DAs c. ensure all developments are consistent with applicable local planning instruments and provide comprehensive guidelines for discretionary decision making, including applying extraordinary discretion d. delete references to 'mandatory significant development' to ensure the pathway remains entirely opt-in e. undertake periodic reviews of its operation and effectiveness. <p>5. Include in any planning report to a decision making:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the value of any direct financial benefit received by the applicant associated with the granting of development bonuses through a performance-based assessment. b. the value of any community benefit proposed in exchange for consideration of development bonus. <p>2. Notes the Development Assessment Panel 2011 – 2024 Review and State Development Pathway 2020 – 2025 Review reports.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 039.3/2025</p>			
2 July 2025 Item 8.3 Public Library Agreement	<p>That State Council endorse the <i>State and Local Level Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia</i>.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 040.3/2025</p>	This has been actioned.	July 2025	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
2 July 2025 Item 8.4 Finance and Services Committee Minutes – 18 June 2025 CONFIDENTIAL	That State Council: 1. Endorse the Minutes of the Finance and Services Committee meeting held on 18 June 2025. 2. Endorse the WALGA Budget 2025-26, being for the full year ending 30 June 2026 as recommended by the Finance and Services Committee. RESOLUTION 041.3/2025 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY	Budget has been implemented.	July 2025	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
2 July 2025 Item 8.5 Appointment to Finance and Services Committee	That State Council appoint President Cr Elizabeth Sudlow, the State Council representative from the Northern Country Zone to the Finance and Services Committee. RESOLUTION 042.3/2025	This has been actioned.	July 2025	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
2 July 2025 Item 8.6 Selection Committee Minutes – 17 June 2025 – CONFIDENTIAL	That State Council: 1. Notes the resolution contained in the 17 June 2025 Selection Committee Minutes. 2. Endorse the Selection Committee recommendations contained in the 17 June 2025 Selection Committee Minutes. RESOLUTION 043.3/2025	This has been actioned.	July 2025	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
2 July 2025 Item 8.7 LGISWA Board Minutes including Annual Adjustments to Scheme Manager Remuneration and Trustee Fees – CONFIDENTIAL	That State Council: 1. Note the minutes of the LGISWA Board meeting held on 23 May 2025; 2. Notes the 2025-26 LGISWA Scheme Budget; 3. REDACTED 4. REDACTED 5. Notes the special request in relation to WorkCare is being considered further by WALGA as a contract management matter; and 6. Notes the establishment of a LGISWA Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) and related matters. RESOLUTION 044.3/2025	This has been actioned	July 2025	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
2 July 2025 Item 8.9 Use of the Association's Common Seal	That State Council notes and endorses the use of Common Seal being affixed to the Perth and Peel Urban Greening Strategy Financial Assistance Agreement for 2025 between the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) and WALGA. RESOLUTION 045.3/2025	This has been actioned	July 2025	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
5 March 2025 Item 9.1 Infrastructure Policy Team Report	That State Council: 1. Note the report from the Infrastructure Policy Team for the 5 March 2025 meeting. 2. Determine to: a. Delete Advocacy Position 5.2.8 (Towards Zero Road Safety Strategy 2008 – 2020). b. Amend the title of Advocacy Position 5.2.7 from Road Safety Strategy (Imagine Zero) to Driving Change Road Safety Strategy 2020-2030. 3. Undertake further policy development and consultation with Members regarding the default open road speed limit in Western Australia. RESOLUTION 013.1/2025	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated. The Infrastructure Policy Team resolved to recommend WALGA engage an independent specialist to develop a framework to support the Local Government sector in decision making and advocacy relating to speed limits.	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure
6 December 2024 Item 8.1 2024 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	That: 1. the item 7.1 Amendments to <i>Cat Act 2011</i> - Allow Local Governments to Make Local Laws to Contain Cats to the Owner's Property be endorsed. ... 3. the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Governance Policy Team for further work to be undertaken: 7.2 Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-Banking 7.3 Advocacy for Expansion of Differential Rating to Include Long Term Unoccupied Commercial Buildings (Property Activation Levy). RESOLUTION 089.5/2024	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated. Correspondence has been sent to the Minister for Local Government requesting the <i>Cat Act 2011</i> be reviewed to provide Local Governments with the ability to contain cats on an owner's property. In addition, work has commenced on developing a template Cat Local Law to assist Local Government to make local	Ongoing	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
		<p>laws to the extent of the current local law-making powers.</p> <p>WALGA is continuing to support Local Governments to consider how they would implement cat containment in practice, including hosting a webinar and in person event</p> <p>Work on items 7.2 and Item 7.3 is continuing.</p> <p>A legal consultant has been contracted to review the legislation and suggest ways to address these recommendations.</p> <p>A combined meeting of the Governance and Environment Policy teams has been scheduled for 12 September with a view to prepare a State Council Agenda item for the December 2025 meeting.</p>		
6 December 2024 Item 8.1 2024 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	That: ... 2. the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Environment Policy Team for further work to be undertaken: 7.2 Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-Banking 7.4 Action on Asbestos for Western Australia 7.6 Advocacy for Accessibility.	Resolution 7.2 (regarding the planning related items within this resolution): The demolition of single houses is generally a form of development exempt from requiring development approval, and only a demolition permit is required for the complete or partial demolition, dismantling or removal of a building or an	Ongoing	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	... RESOLUTION 089.5/2024	<p>incidental structure. The current planning and building legislation do not allow the conditioning of approval or refusal of a building permit in a manner proposed by the AGM resolution.</p> <p>A joint meeting of the Environment and Governance Policy Teams has been scheduled for 12 September to consider this item.</p> <p>Resolution 7.4: WALGA is engaging at the State and National level on this issue, including through membership of the WA Interagency Asbestos Group and nationally the Asbestos Safety Eradication Agency reference group and has raised the issues impacting Local Governments in relation to safe removal and disposal, including ensuring statewide options.</p> <p>WALGA continues to progress asbestos advocacy and will undertake a survey of Local Governments to determine key needs in the coming months.</p> <p>Resolution 7.6: Liveable Housing Design Standard as part of the National Construction Code</p>		

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
		<p>(NCC) provides a set of technical provisions that if complied with enable dwellings to better meet the needs of the community, including older people and people with mobility limitations. The code specifies seven minimum standards to ensure all new homes are accessible with modifications including step-free entrances and showers and wider doors and corridors that can accommodate wheelchairs and walking aids.</p> <p>All states enact the NCC through state legislation and regulation. A range of states are taking different approaches in terms of adopting the liveable housing requirements, but at time of writing all states except NSW and Western Australia have adopted the liveable housing provisions.</p> <p>The NCC 2022 only became operational in WA on 1 May. The appointment of a new Commerce Minister following the 2025 State Election provides an opportunity to engage on this matter.</p> <p>WALGA raised the prospects of WA adopting the standard at its</p>		

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
		meeting with the Minister in July 2025.		
6 December 2024 Item 8.2 Local Government Elections Advocacy Positions	<p>That item 1 be deferred, and the Secretariat further investigate implications of compulsory and voluntary participation in Local Government elections and report back to State Council.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 090.5/2024</p> <p>That WALGA adopt the following Elections Advocacy Positions:</p> <p><i>The Local Government sector supports:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Councillors serve four-year terms with elections every two years and half of the Council positions spilled at each election.</i> <i>First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for Local Government elections. If Optional Preferential Voting (OPV) remains as the primary method of voting, the sector supports the removal of the 'proportional' part of the voting method for general elections.</i> <i>First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for internal Council elections.</i> <i>Councils holding elections by means of in-person, postal and/or electronic voting.</i> <i>Current legislative provisions of Mayor/President of Class 1 and Class 2 Local Governments being directly elected by the community and Class 3 and Class 4 Local Governments determining whether its Mayor or President is elected by the Council or by the community.</i> <p>RESOLUTION 091.5/2024</p>	<p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.</p> <p>Preparation of a report on implications of compulsory and voluntary participation in Local Government elections is in progress.</p> <p>Correspondence has been sent to the Minister for Local Government advising on the five advocacy positions endorsed.</p>	Scheduled to be completed by December 2025	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
6 December 2024 Item 8.6	<p>That State Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provides in principle support for the proposed Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement between 	Following conclusions of discussions with the PTA, a revised agreement incorporating,	June 2025	Ian Duncan

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
Bus Stop Infrastructure Agreement	<p>WALGA and the Public Transport Authority 2024/25 to 2028/29.</p> <p>2. Request the WALGA Secretariat negotiate with the Public Transport Authority seeking:</p> <p>a. Deletion of the word “typically” from Clauses 6.2, 8.1 (ii) and 8.6 (i)</p> <p>b. Indexation of funding provided under the Bus Shelter Subsidy Program (BSSP) and Bus Shelter Maintenance Assistance Scheme (BSMAS) during or at the end of the Agreement</p> <p>3. Authorise the WALGA President to sign the Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement, on the completion of best endeavours to negotiate with the Public Transport Authority.</p> <p>4. Refer the request for WALGA develop an advocacy position that Commonwealth Disability Standards have a provision for minimum standards of public transport shelter to the Infrastructure Policy Team.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 095.5/2024</p>	<p>to the extent possible the matters raised by State Council, was presented to the WALGA President and CEO for consideration.</p> <p>The agreement has now been signed and provided to all Local Government with PTA bus services. A copy of the final agreement is available from the WALGA website here.</p>		Executive Manager Infrastructure