

State Council Agenda 7 May 2026

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

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1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1 OPENING

1.2 ATTENDANCE

Members	WALGA Deputy President Avon-Midland Country Zone Central Country Zone Central Metropolitan 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 Northern Country 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	Chris Antonio (Chair) Phillip Blight Helen Sadler Paul Kelly Paige McNeil Cate McCullough Matthew Niikkula Laurene Bonza Stephen Strange Scott Crosby Chris Mitchell JP Les Price <i>VACANT</i> Lewis Hutton Eman Seif JP Elizabeth Sudlow Mike Walmsley Audra Smith Patrick Hall Teresa Lynes Robert Schmidt Karen Wheatland Barry Winmar Donelle Buegge
Ex-Officio	Local Government Professionals WA President	Mr Anthony Vuleta
Secretariat	Chief Executive Officer Executive Manager Member Services Executive Manager Policy Executive Manger Advocacy Chief Financial Officer Manager Association and Corporate Governance State Council Governance Officer	Nick Sloan Kirsty Martin Nicole Matthews Rachel Horton Rick Murray Kathy Robertson Habiba Farrag

1.3 APOLOGIES

Members	WALGA President	Mark Irwin
Ex Officio	The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor – City of Perth	Lord Mayor, Bruce Reynolds
Secretariat	Executive Manager Infrastructure	Ian Duncan

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 4 MARCH 2026

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

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

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

4.2 FLYING MINUTE – INQUIRY INTO AUSTRALIA'S AVIATION SECTOR

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

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

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

4.6 FLYING MINUTE – DRAFT RENEWABLE ENERGY PLANNING CODE SUBMISSION

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

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

6.2 LG PROFESSIONALS REPORT

Mr Anthony Vuleta, President, LG Professionals WA, will provide a report to the 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 PROTECTING COUNCIL MEMBER AND EMPLOYEE PRIVACY ADVOCACY POSITION

By Meghan Dwyer, Governance Specialist

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the following new Advocacy Position:

Protecting Council Member and Employee Privacy

That WALGA advocates to the State Government to:

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The South East Metropolitan Zone resolved to request WALGA advocate to amend s.5.95(1) of the *Local Government Act 1995* to specify that the right to inspect Primary and Annual Returns (Returns) contained in the Register of Financial Interests under s.5.94(b) does not extend to the residential address of the relevant person.
- Returns may include residential addresses, which are then made publicly accessible, creating privacy and safety risks.
- Council Members and employees are increasingly reluctant to disclose residential addresses due to safety and security risks, demonstrating that current legislation no longer aligns with contemporary expectations of privacy.
- Recent parliamentary scrutiny of similar requirements for Members of Parliament led to recommendations to remove full residential address disclosures, which the Government supported.
- In addition to Returns, Council Members must also provide a residential address when making their declaration of office.
- It would be appropriate for a review of all public disclosure requirements under the *Local Government Act 1995* to occur to ensure that they remain contemporary, effective, and aligned with modern standards of accountability and personal security.
- The Governance Policy Team endorsed the proposed advocacy position at its meeting on 23 March 2026.

ATTACHMENT

- Jurisdictional Comparison – Address Information in Council Member Returns and Declarations of Office (included below).

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The proposed advocacy position aligns to the WALGA 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, in particular:

- Influence – Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government.
- Support – Anticipate, understand and respond to Member needs.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The recommendation is for State Council to endorse a new [Advocacy Position](#).

Protecting Council Member and Employee Privacy

That WALGA advocates to the State Government to:

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

BACKGROUND

At the 3 December 2025 meeting, State Council adopted new Advocacy Position 2.5.20 Electoral Material - Authorisation Statement Address Requirements in response to significant privacy and safety concerns arising from the obligation to publish a candidate's physical address on electoral materials.

When considering this item at the preceding round of Zone meetings, the South East Metropolitan Zone (SEMZ) resolved to request WALGA advocate to amend s.5.95(1) of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) to specify that the right to inspect Primary and Annual Returns (Returns) contained in the Register of Financial Interests under s.5.94(b) does not extend to the residential address of the relevant person.

State Council resolved to refer the SEMZ comments to the Governance Policy Team.

The Governance Policy Team endorsed the proposed advocacy position at its meeting on 23 March 2026.

COMMENT

Public disclosure regimes must strike an appropriate balance between public transparency and personal safety. The inclusion of personal identifying information in publicly accessible documents has become increasingly problematic. As digital publication and internet search capabilities have expanded, material that once had limited circulation can be copied and distributed with ease. This environment has reinforced the need to carefully consider how

much personal information is necessary to make publicly available, and the risks that may arise when doing so.

Local Government Act

The Act establishes a range of public disclosure obligations designed to promote transparency and accountability. However, digital publication, increased data availability, and heightened personal safety concerns have created new risks that were not contemplated when these provisions were first drafted.

Returns require relevant persons to disclose personal financial information. Information disclosed includes the address of each parcel of real property, located in the district or in an adjoining district, in which the person had an interest and the nature of the interest in each parcel of real property (s.5.79). In practice, this often results in the disclosure of a Council Member or employee's residential address.

Returns are required to be included in the register of financial interests. Section 5.94(b) of the Act requires any register of financial interest to be made available to the public, and s.5.96 requires the Local Government to provide copies upon request.

Although s.5.93 of the Act establishes penalties for the improper use of information, information can now be copied and distributed almost instantly. In many cases, the harm may occur well before any investigation or action can be commenced.

In addition to the requirement for Council Members to disclose interests in real property as part of their returns, s.2.29 of the Act, together with Form 7 of the *Local Government (Constitution) Regulations 1998*, requires each Council Member to provide their full residential address when making their statutory declaration of office. Although this declaration is not required to be made publicly available under s. 5.94(b) of the Act, some Local Governments livestream or publish recordings of the proceedings. As a result, full residential address details become publicly accessible.

Emerging risks and issues

Local Governments have observed increasing reluctance from Council Members and employees to provide their residential address. Reasons include:

- being registered as a silent elector under the *Electoral Act 1907*,
- experiences or risks of family or domestic violence,
- concerns that leave of absence approvals may signal when a residence may be unoccupied,
- role-related risks, such as potential targeted harassment by dissatisfied community members.

Disclosure of personal residential addresses can also expose individuals to cybersecurity and identity-theft risks, as this information can be combined with other data to build detailed personal profiles. Publicly accessible addresses may make individuals more vulnerable to targeted scams, social engineering, and unwanted contact, increasing both digital and physical security risks.

Parliamentary disclosure obligations

The disclosure of the residential addresses of Members of Parliament in their Primary and Annual Returns has recently been considered by the [Legislative Assembly Procedures and Privileges Committee in Report No.1: Protecting privacy and other reasons to update the Members of Parliament \(Financial Interests\) Act 1992](#).

The Committee recommended that the Government review the relevant legislation, “with a view to addressing the requirement for the disclosure of full residential addresses and to consider broader legislative updates necessary to ensure the Act remains contemporary, effective, and aligned with modern standards of accountability and personal security.”

The [Government response](#) supported this recommendation.

Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing

The objectives of the new *Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024* (PRIS Act) include promoting responsible and transparent practices in the handling of personal information and balancing the public interests of protecting the privacy of personal information with the free flow of information by agencies.

Most privacy provisions in the PRIS Act come into effect on 1 July 2026.

The following sections of the PRIS Act intersect with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1995*:

- The information privacy principles do not apply to information that is already publicly accessible. This includes information in documents that are either generally available to the public or made available for public inspection under another written law (s.22).
- An individual may request a public entity to remove their personal information from a public register if making the information publicly available would substantially affect any individual's safety or wellbeing. If the public entity is satisfied that the grounds exist, the public entity must comply with the request unless the public entity is satisfied that the public interest in maintaining public access to the information outweighs any individual interest in the information not being made publicly available (s.77).

While this appears to provide a mechanism for individuals to address specific safety and privacy concerns, it would be preferable to ensure that the legislative requirements avoid unnecessary risks to all Council Members and employees.

WALGA will seek to engage with the Information Commissioner and Deputy Privacy Commissioner to clarify the way in which these and other PRIS Act provisions will apply to Council Members.

Review and amendments to the Local Government Act

As Local Government Council Members and employees share the same safety concerns as Members of Parliament it would be appropriate to echo the Procedures and Privilege Committee and advocate for a broad review of all public disclosure requirements under the *Local Government Act 1995* to ensure that they remain contemporary, effective, and aligned with modern standards of accountability and personal security. A review would allow a clearer, risk-aware framework to be established that protects individuals while preserving appropriate transparency.

Within this broader reform, several targeted amendments are necessary. It is proposed that s. 5.95(1) be amended so that the right to inspect information in the register of financial interests under s. 5.94(b) is limited to the suburb or locality of each property, rather than the full residential address of the relevant person. Additionally, the requirement for Council Members to provide their full residential address in the statutory declaration of office should be removed. These amendments are consistent with practices adopted in other

Australian jurisdictions and reflect the approach now being reconsidered for Members of Parliament.

Importantly, these changes would not weaken transparency or accountability. Council Members and employees would still be required to disclose their full residential address in Returns, and would continue to declare direct financial, indirect financial, proximity, and impartiality interests when they arise in decision-making processes. This ensures that relevant interests remain publicly recorded when they matter, without unnecessarily exposing personal residential details. By limiting public access to only what is necessary, the legislative framework can better protect individual safety while preserving the integrity of the disclosure regime.

ATTACHMENT: JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON – ADDRESS INFORMATION IN COUNCIL MEMBER RETURNS AND DECLARATIONS OF OFFICE

DISCLOSURES IN RETURNS	
<p>Victoria Local Government Act 2020 Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020</p>	<p>CEO must prepare summary of personal interests information disclosed in the last personal interest return.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes the town or suburb, but not the street address or number of the land that is the place of residence <p>Other matters to be included or excluded are prescribed.</p> <p>Includes that a specified person may request in writing information not be included if the CEO consider including the information would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> be reasonably likely to place the personal safety of any person at risk, or unreasonably expose a business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage <p>Summary of personal interest returns available to members of the public.</p> <p>Detailed personal interests returns are only available to certain persons.</p>
<p>New South Wales Governance Information (Public Access) Act 2009</p>	<p>From the <i>Information Access Guideline 1 - For Local Councils on the disclosure of information</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Returns should be made publicly available on the council's website unless there is an overriding public interest against release or to do so would impose unreasonable additional costs on council. A consideration against disclosure is where release of the information may expose a person to a risk of harm or of serious harassment or serious intimidation. In the circumstances where council decides that there is an overriding public interest against disclosure, consideration should then be given to whether it is practicable to release an edited copy of the record (for example redacting the individual's signature or residential address) If it is practicable to do so, then the information should be deleted from a copy of the record and the remainder of the return made available on the council's website. Where information is deleted from a return, council should keep a record indicating, in general terms, the nature of the information redacted.
<p>Queensland Local Government Regulation 2021</p>	<p>Suburb or locality of the land is required (not full address).</p>

South Australia <u>Local Government Act 1999</u>	Personal addresses are not to be published nor are any addresses where the CEO is satisfied that the inclusion in the Register of the address of a person would place at risk the personal safety of that person, a member of that person's family or any other person.
Tasmania	Currently does not require councillors to lodge a personal interests return. The Tasmanian government is implementing a new framework to strengthen the management of local government councillor conflicts of interest, with reforms expected before the 2026 elections.

INFORMATION IN COUNCIL MEMBER DECLARATIONS OF OFFICE	
Victoria <u>Local Government Act 2020</u> <u>Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020</u>	Address not required.
New South Wales <u>Local Government Act 1993</u>	Address not required.
Queensland <u>Local Government Regulation 2021</u>	Address not required.
South Australia <u>Local Government (General) Regulations 2013</u>	Address not required.
Tasmania <u>Local Government (General) Regulations 2025</u>	Address not required.

8.2 WATER MANAGEMENT ADVOCACY POSITION

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

1. Endorse the following new Advocacy Position:

Water Management

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

2. Retires Advocacy Position 6.14 Planning for Water.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A new Water Management Advocacy Position and the retirement of position 6.14 Planning for Water is proposed.
- The new Position has been developed following consultation and feedback on WALGA's *Water Management in Western Australia Discussion Paper*.
- 28 Local Governments provided more than 200 comments on the paper, with the main issues being:
 - equitable access to consistent and reliable water;

- water licensing and allocation;
- integrated regional and catchment-scale water planning;
- water for Public Open Space (POS);
- funding
 - for critical infrastructure - drainage and irrigation, alternative water sources and sewerage infill and headworks.
 - for water efficiency and water sensitive urban design initiatives.
- expanding and improving the Waterwise Council Program;
- access to data and information to inform decision making; and
- addressing the impacts of stormwater runoff.
- The outcomes sought in 6.14 Planning for Water have been realised in the recently released State Planning Policy 2.9.
- The Environment Policy Team endorsed retiring the position and the new position at its meeting on 19 March 2026.

ATTACHMENT

- [Water Management Discussion Paper](#)
- [Water Management Consultation Summary Report](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item relates to the following WALGA Strategic Pillars:

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

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed that the following new [Advocacy Position](#) be **endorsed**:

Water Management

1. *Access to consistent, reliable and adequate water supplies is critical for Local Government operations, community health, amenity, environmental sustainability and economic activity.*
2. *WALGA is calling on the State Government to:*
 - a. *Modernise water management legislation and regulation, including:*
 - i. *Undertaking a review of the water licensing and allocation system to ensure equitable access and prioritise high value community use including for public open space.*
 - ii. *Developing a State-wide framework for integrated regional and catchment-scale water planning.*
 - b. *Adequately, sustainably and equitably fund critical water infrastructure programs for Local Government, including:*
 - i. *Drainage and irrigation upgrades.*
 - ii. *Alternative water sources (recycled water, stormwater harvesting, desalination and groundwater replenishment) and disused water asset transfer.*
 - iii. *Small-scale sewerage infrastructure headworks and infill sewerage.*
 - c. *Expand the Waterwise Council Program statewide and provide:*
 - i. *Increased support and resources to assist Local Government in delivering water efficiency measures.*

- ii. *Incentives for Local Governments to undertake water efficiency initiatives.*
- d. *Improve water data access and capability for Local Governments to ensure evidence-based decision making.*
- e. *Provide effective leadership, guidance, education and enforcement to address the impacts of stormwater runoff.*

It is proposed that the following Advocacy Position be **retired**:

6.14 Planning for Water

As part of the Water Management Report endorsement process, formal support from the relevant Local Government should be required where:

1. *It is intended that the Local Government will become the infrastructure asset manager; or*
2. *The proposed location of water infrastructure assets will impact Local Government assets or facilities.*

The outcomes sought in Position 6.14 have been realised in the recently released [State Planning Policy 2.9](#).

BACKGROUND

WALGA identified the need to consolidate and expand on current Water related [Advocacy Positions](#) and has undertaken initial consultation, through targeted engagement and consideration of issues raised by the sector previously. To inform the development of a new Advocacy Position, WALGA developed a Discussion Paper to gain feedback from the sector on their current challenges and needs in relation to water management across the state.

WALGA released the Discussion Paper for comment in late November 2025, with an initial deadline of 15 January 2026 for comment, however based on feedback from the sector this deadline was extended to Thursday, 12 March.

28 Local Governments have provided feedback, 14 of those Council/CEO level feedback. The feedback provided by Local Governments was comprehensive, with over 200 individual comments received across the submissions. WALGA acknowledges the significant time and consideration given by Members in providing that level of feedback.

The main themes of the feedback reflect those explored in the Discussion Paper and are consistent across Local Government:

- Legislation which is inequitable and outdated, particularly for licensing and allocation.
- State legislation should align with the National Water Agreement, particularly strategic, long term integrated planning and equitable access to drinking water.
- Aging and insufficient water infrastructure.
- Support and resourcing needed to explore and mainstream alternative water sources.
- Reactive approaches to headworks and sewerage servicing constraining development, particularly in regional and high-growth areas.
- Public Open Space (POS) in relation to planning decisions not accounting for the water needed to sustain these areas.
- Statewide expansion of the Waterwise Council program and improvement in program support and design.
- High interest in improving and supporting water efficiency and water sensitive urban design outcomes.
- Water data gaps and poor data sharing limits sound decision making.

- Water quality as an emerging and under-recognised issue.

WALGA has consolidated the feedback into a Consultation Report which summarises the main themes and issues raised by the sector and how it has been addressed in the draft Advocacy Position.

COMMENT

The new Position has been informed by the information, issues and priorities identified in feedback received from Local Governments on the WALGA Discussion Paper.

A new Advocacy Position is timely given the release of [Made Possible by Water](#) by the State Government on 21 March 2026, a document outlining WA's water future. A comprehensive Advocacy Position on this issue will be essential to assist WALGA's advocacy and influence how the Government delivers the priorities identified. Some of the matters identified in the draft Advocacy Position are reflected in Made Possible by Water, including expansion of the WaterWise Program and delivery of new water sources.

The Environment Policy Team endorsed the new Advocacy Position and the retirement of Position 6.14 at its meeting on 19 March 2026.

8.3 OFF ROADS VEHICLES ADVOCACY POSITION

By Rebecca Hicks, Policy Advisor Community

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council retire Advocacy Position 3.12 *Off Road Vehicles*.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- It is proposed that Advocacy Position 3.12 Off Road Vehicles (ORV) be retired.
- The *Control of Vehicles (Off-road Vehicles) Act 1978* (the ORV Act) provides the legislative framework for the use of off-road vehicles within permitted areas in WA.
- Nine Local Governments own and maintain Off Road Vehicle (ORV) areas.
- Advocacy Position 3.12 Off Road Vehicles was adopted by State Council in 2018 in response to concerns from Members about the use of permitted ORV areas.
- Amendments to the ORV Act in 2025 address the core objectives of the ORV Advocacy Position, particularly as it relates to registration and enforcement.
- The retirement of the ORV Advocacy Position was endorsed by the People and Place Policy Team at its meeting on 19 March 2026.

ATTACHMENT

- [Control of Vehicles \(Off-road Areas\) Amendment Act 2025](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Retiring this Advocacy Position aligns with the following WALGA Strategic Pillars:

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

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed that Advocacy Position [3.12 Off Road Vehicles](#) be **retired**.

Legislation relating to off road vehicles should be reviewed to align registration and licensing of off-road vehicles with other vehicle types are users. In addition, educational resources should be developed in consultation with users, regulators, and vendors relating to safety, regulatory compliance and other associated matters.

BACKGROUND

The *Control of Vehicles (Off-road Vehicles) Act 1978* (the ORV Act) prohibits the use of Off Road Vehicles (ORVs) in areas outside of permitted areas and makes provisions for the use of ORVs in permitted areas. The Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) is responsible for administering the legislation and providing [information and support](#) to users and Local Governments. The legislation defines ORVs as including, but not limited to, trail bikes, quad bikes, beach buggies and road licensed vehicles such as four-wheel drives when used in off-road locations.

The use of ORVs outside of permitted areas can have impacts on Local Governments and communities including community safety in public spaces, road safety and environmental impacts. These issues fall under the scope of other legislation.

Nine Local Governments currently maintain and operate permitted areas: the Cities of Greater Geraldton, Karratha, Kwinana and Swan and the Shires of Carnarvon, Dandaragan, Gingin, Port Hedland and York.

WALGA's Advocacy Position was adopted by State Council in 2018, in response to Member concerns regarding the use of permitted ORV areas.

The ORV Act was amended in 2025 to align penalties and enforcement expectations with other WA transport legislation. The *Amendment Act* includes provisions to introduce online and label registrations and increase penalties for existing offences. The majority of the ORV Amendment Act commenced with immediate effect in August 2025. Sections of the legislation relating to registration labels are dependent on system design changes to the online registration platform. The legislation regulations and commencement date are expected by the end of 2026.

In 2024, the [State Government announced \\$4.8 million](#) in grant funding for Local Governments to develop new and upgrade existing ORV areas. This funding recognises the key role Local Government plays in the upkeep and management of ORV areas.

COMMENT

The ORV Amendment Act addresses the core objectives of the WALGA ORV advocacy position, particularly as it relates to registration and enforcement. As the intended outcomes of the advocacy position have been achieved, it is proposed that Advocacy Position 3.12 Off Road Vehicles be retired. WALGA will work with LGIRS to provide advice and support on the commencement of the Act regulations for Members managing permitted areas.

WALGA has engaged with Members that currently manage ORV permitted areas. Six Local Governments have responded and provided their support for the retirement of the advocacy position.

WALGA will continue to monitor emerging issues associated with ORVs, with a particular focus on usage outside of permitted areas.

The proposed retirement of the ORV advocacy position was endorsed by the People and Place Policy Team at its meeting on 19 March 2026.

8.4 HOMELESSNESS ADVOCACY POSITION

By Hannah Godsave, Manager Community Policy

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

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

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

- 1. Ensuring specialist homelessness services are responsive to need, place-based and people-centred.***
- 2. Investing in social and affordable housing and wraparound services.***

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- It is proposed that the 2019 Advocacy Position 3.11 Homelessness be updated.
- While responding to homelessness is a State and Australian Government responsibility, the impacts of homelessness intersect with multiple areas of Local Government service delivery and requires them to manage community expectations.
- Western Australian Local Governments are reporting increased numbers of people experiencing homelessness, including Local Governments that have historically experienced minimal impact.
- WALGA undertook a survey of Members in early 2026 to better understand the impact on the sector and inform a review of the current Advocacy Position.
- The updated Position reflects the sector's view that the Australian and Western Australian Government should provide leadership, support and funding to prevent and respond to homelessness, in particular specialist services, social and affordable housing and wraparound services.
- The People and Place Policy Team endorsed the revised position at its meeting on 19 March 2026.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item relates to the following WALGA Strategic Pillars:

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

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed that the **existing** Advocacy Position [3.11 Homelessness](#):

WALGA recognises that Local Government through its planning, health, community development and regulatory powers can facilitate positive local and regional responses to end homelessness, however does not see that it has a lead role. Rather, Local Government's role is one of a stakeholder that requires early engagement in the understanding of collaborative approaches that improve the quality of life for people experiencing homelessness in all of its manifestations.

be **replaced** with a new Advocacy Position as follows:

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

- 1. Ensuring specialist homelessness services are responsive to need, place-based and people-centred.*
- 2. Investing in social and affordable housing and wraparound services.*

BACKGROUND

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) defines homelessness as when a person does not have suitable accommodation alternatives and their current living arrangement:

- is in a dwelling that is inadequate;
- has no tenure, or tenure is short and not extendable; or
- does not allow them to have control of, and access to space for social relations.

The ABS Census of Population and Housing provides the authoritative data source on people experiencing homelessness. The 2021 Census reported 9,729 people experiencing homelessness in WA. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare provides more contemporary data based on interactions with specialist homelessness services. In 2024-25, almost 289,000 (1 in 115) people engaged with specialist homelessness services in WA, of which 47% were accessing homelessness support for the first time.

While responding to homelessness is a State and Australian Government responsibility, the impacts of homelessness intersect with multiple areas of Local Government service delivery, including the maintenance of public spaces, planning and zoning for appropriate services and revenue-related functions such as rates and grants administration. Local Governments must also manage community expectations about how they will respond to homelessness.

WALGA's current advocacy position was adopted by State Council in 2019 in the lead up to the release of [*All Paths Lead to a Home: Western Australia's 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness 2020–2030*](#) (the Strategy) released by the State Government. The Strategy sets out a vision for a whole of community response, led by the Department of Communities, working towards ending homelessness in Western Australia. The Strategy identifies a predominantly supportive role for the Local Government sector in addressing homelessness, while also acknowledging that some Local Governments directly provide homelessness and accommodation services. Suggested sector contributions in the Strategy include facilitating local partnerships, identifying rough sleepers, sharing local area knowledge to inform State Government resourcing decisions, and connecting people to specialist services. This supportive role for the Local Government sector is reflected in the current Advocacy Position.

At the National level, the [*National Agreement on Social Housing and Homelessness*](#) provides a five-year funding and accountability framework between the Australian and State/Territory Governments to support social housing and homelessness services until June 2029. The bilateral schedule for Western Australia sets out a \$165.9 million homelessness funding contribution from both parties.

COMMENT

Local Governments have been reporting increased numbers of people experiencing homelessness, including Local Governments that have historically experienced minimal impact. Local Governments have shared that they are facing growing pressure to meet both their defined obligations and community expectations for comprehensive responses, including specialist homelessness services triage, investment in housing and support service provision.

To better understand the issues being raised by Members, WALGA conducted a sector survey on homelessness in early 2026. 68 responses (49%) were received, 26 metropolitan and 42 regional, with representation from all WALGA Zones. Key findings from the survey include:

- 74% of respondents report an increase in the significance of homelessness in their Local Government area in the last two years.
- 60% of respondents report an increase in enquires from community members regarding homelessness in the last two years.
 - Key issues raised in community enquiries are rough sleeping and persons living in vehicles.
- 23% of respondents consider there is no role beyond defined responsibilities for Local Government in response to homelessness.
- 61% of respondents consider preventative measures to reduce homelessness and facilitating connections to specialist service providers as an appropriate role for Local Government in response to homelessness.
- 83% of respondents rank State and Federal Government funding as the highest or second highest priority enabler to respond to homelessness.
- 51% of respondents report that current specialist homelessness services are not adequate within their Local Government area.
- Respondents rank affordable housing as the top priority for support/services to address homelessness, followed by wraparound services and specialist support services.

Informed by survey responses and acknowledging the support role of Local Government identified in the State Strategy, the updated position calls on the Australian and Western Australian Government to provide the necessary leadership, support and funding to prevent and respond to homelessness, in particular specialist services, social and affordable housing and wraparound services.

The People and Place Policy Team endorsed the revised position at its meeting on 19 March 2026 meeting.

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

The Infrastructure Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- *Transport*
- *Infrastructure*
- *Road Safety*
- *Underground power*
- *Street lighting*

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the Infrastructure Policy Team at its meeting held on 4 March 2026.

An overview of the current policy priorities and key issues for the Infrastructure Policy Team was provided by Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure, Suzanne Butler, Manager Road Safety and Mark Bondietti, Policy Manager Transport and Roads.

1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION

The Policy Team considered proposed new advocacy positions in relation to regional airports and remote air services. The Policy Team discussed the Zone resolutions in response to this item and agreed to move the following composite resolution at the March State Council meeting:

That State Council endorse two new Advocacy Positions as follows:

1. Regional Airports

WALGA supports the sustainable operation of Local Government owned regional airports and advocates for proportionate regulatory frameworks, targeted funding, and operational guidance to ensure safe, efficient, and resilient airport infrastructure and services.

2. Regional and Remote Air Services

WALGA advocates for reliable, affordable, and equitable regional air services, calling for greater oversight of airline pricing practices, including providing adequate capacity net of contracted (FIFO) seats, transparent fare structures and equitable access to discounted and lower-cost fares, to mitigate the impacts of limited competition and dynamic pricing on regional residents, businesses, and essential travel. WALGA also promotes the continued viability of essential routes and recognises regional aviation as an essential service supporting community and emergency access, workforce mobility, and regional economic development.

The new Advocacy Positions, as above, were endorsed by State Council at the March State Council meeting.

2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING

Nil.

3. MATTERS REFERRED FROM ZONES

The Peel Country Zone has highlighted problems in relation to the condition and maintenance of the Water Corporation's Swan Coastal Plains Bridges and requested WALGA to advocate for solutions.

A meeting has been agreed with Water Corporation, and an update is to be provided at the next Policy Team meeting.

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, at the People and Place Policy Team meetings held on 11 February and 19 March, and the Joint Environment and People and Place Meeting held on 19 March.

1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION

Flying Minute - DFES Bushfire Place of Last Resort Discussion Paper Submission

The Environment and People and Place Policy Teams recommended that State Council endorse WALGA's submission to the DFES Bushfire Place of Last Resort – Preliminary Stakeholder Engagement Discussion Paper. The submission was endorsed by State Council by Flying Minute on 30 March 2026.

Advocacy Position Reviews

The People and Place Policy Team recommended that State Council retire Advocacy Position 3.12 Off Roads Vehicles. Last year the State Government passed the *Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Amendment Act 2025*, which addressed the core objectives of the WALGA ORV Advocacy Position, particularly as it relates to registration and enforcement. As the intended outcomes of the Advocacy Position have been achieved, it is proposed that Advocacy Position 3.12 Off Road Vehicles be retired. State Council [item 8.4](#) relates to this matter.

The People and Place Policy Team also recommended that State Council endorse the updated Homelessness Advocacy Position. The revised position provides a contemporary and sector informed Advocacy Position that includes a clear ask and expectation of the Australian and Western Australian Government. State Council [item 8.5](#) relates to this matter.

2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING

At the February meeting, the People and Place Policy Team considered WALGA's submission to the WA Office of Multicultural Interests on the Discussion Paper: A Multicultural Act for WA. This submission was endorsed by State Council via the Flying Minute process on 26 February.

3. PEOPLE AND PLACE POLICY TEAM MATTERS

Team Updates

In the February meeting, the Emergency Management and Community Policy Teams gave the new Policy Team Members an introduction to the areas of work covered by each team and the priorities for the year ahead.

At the March meeting, the Emergency Management Team provided an update on:

- The 2025 Emergency Management Survey
 - Once survey results are finalised the team will provide presentations and updates across working groups and Committees.
- The Emergency Management Forum
 - Details are being finalised, with the Forum to be held in May.

At the March meeting, the Community Policy Team provided an update on:

- Rural and remote primary health advocacy, including develop service model solutions in collaboration with Rural Health West and other stakeholders.
- The Aboriginal Elected Members Roundtable and Aboriginal Engagement Forum held on 17 and 18 March.
- Advocacy work surrounding the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) pause, including meeting with the Minister's Advisor.

9.3 GOVERNANCE POLICY TEAM REPORT

By Kirsty Martin, Executive Manager 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 at meetings held on 23 February and 26 March 2026.

At the meeting on 23 February, the Governance Policy Team elected Patrick Hall as the Chair and confirmed the dates for the 2026 meetings.

1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION

Protecting Council Member and Employee Privacy Advocacy Position

The Policy Team considered a report on a new Advocacy Position on Protecting Council Member and Employee Privacy. Specifically, the necessary legislative amendments to strike an appropriate balance between transparency, personal safety and contemporary community expectations of privacy.

State Council Agenda [item 8.1](#) relates to this matter.

2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING

Nil.

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 at its meeting held on 19 March 2026.

1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION

State Council [item 8.3](#) Water Management Advocacy Position

2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING

Flying Minute - DFES Bushfire Place of Last Resort Discussion Paper Submission

The Environment and People and Place Policy Teams recommended that State Council endorse WALGA's submission to the DFES Bushfire Place of Last Resort – Preliminary Stakeholder Engagement Discussion Paper. The submission was endorsed by State Council by Flying Minute on 30 March 2026.

Flying Minute - Renewable Energy Code Submission

The Environment Policy Team recommended that State Council endorse the submission to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage on the draft Renewable Energy Code, supporting Guidelines and associated regulatory amendments. The submission was endorsed by State Council by Flying Minute on 30 March 2026.

3. ENVIRONMENT POLICY TEAM MATTERS

Feedback provided to DWER on Compliance and Enforcement Policy

The Environment Policy Team noted the feedback provided to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) on their Draft Compliance and Enforcement Policy and associated Guidelines. This was not a public consultation; the documents were only provided to peak industry bodies and relevant State Government Departments.

These documents do not differ substantially from DWER's existing Policy and Guidelines. WALGA provided an extensive submission on the development of this Policy in 2019 and used that submission and subsequent feedback from the sector as the basis for commentary.

The main issues raised in 2019, which are still relevant, do not relate to the policy and guidance themselves but to the need for effective implementation. WALGA used this opportunity to identify key concerns for Local Governments to DWER including:

- Ensuring compliance and enforcement functions are prioritised as an essential component of the Department's activities.
- Ensuring the Department is adequately resourced, and has the systems in place, to effectively deliver compliance and enforcement functions.
- Reviewing the adequacy of the legislative framework for compliance and enforcement.

Feedback provided to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority on Anticoagulant Rodenticide Ban

On 2 November 2021, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority's (APVMA's) commenced a review of the risks of anticoagulant rodenticide products. In December 2025, the APVMA released the Anticoagulant Rodenticides Review Technical Report and commenced consultation on proposed regulatory changes to protect the safety of people and the environment, especially native birds and mammals. This review included a focus on Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs), which are most problematic in relation to secondary poisoning risk.

Local Government has been vocal on this issue and supportive of bans or restrictions on the use of SGARs. Following a motion to the 2022 National General Assembly of Local Government, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Board supported a call on the Australian Government to recognise the harmful impact of SGARs and promote alternative methods of rodent management. In response to feedback from Zones, WALGA has promoted the Owl Friendly Council Program and there are currently 32 Local Governments that have declared Owl Friendly status or promote use of alternatives to SGARs. WALGA promoted the opportunity to comment to Local Government and provided a short response identifying the issues Local Governments have raised regarding SGARs.

Advocacy Request – State Agreements and Mining

The Environment Policy Team considered a motion by the East Metropolitan, South East Metropolitan and Peel Country Zones regarding State Agreements and mining in drinking water catchments.

State Agreements have been used to develop resource projects in WA since the 1950's. They are legal agreements between the WA Government and a proponent, ratified by Acts of Parliament. In October 2024, the [Office of the Auditor General](#) delivered the outcomes of an audit which assessed if the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (JTSI) is managing State Agreements effectively and monitoring benefits to the State and community. The audit had a number of recommendations which the Department (now Department of Energy and Economic Diversification (DEED)) is working to address.

WALGA's existing [Advocacy Position](#) 4.6 Environmental Regulations for Mining, speaks generally to environmental impact of mining activities but not specifically to the impact on public drinking water supply. The draft Advocacy Position on Water Management ([item 8.3](#)) identifies the critical role of water for Local Government.

The Policy Team recommended:

1. WALGA incorporate the Zones' resolution into the review of Advocacy Positions currently underway.
2. WALGA write to the Director General of DEED requesting an update on progress relating to the recommendations of the Office of the Auditor General Report, in particular those regarding engagement with community and Local Government.

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 25 February 2026.

1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION

New MWAC Structure

MWAC discussed and agreed with the recommended approach put forward by WALGA to create a new structure for MWAC. The focus of this new structure will be to ensure that all Local Government waste management organisations (Regional Councils and Subsidiaries), as well as Local Governments, can continue to effectively engage and contribute to WALGA's waste policy and advocacy work. Under this approach, MWAC would be wound up and replaced with a Waste Management Advisory Group.

2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING

Nil.

3. MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MATTERS

MWAC also considered:

- Circular Economy Advocacy Position and Background Paper:
 - MWAC noted the Circular Economy Advocacy Position and Background Paper that has been developed for consultation.
 - This Paper will be released for Local Government comment and, following feedback, an Advocacy Position provided to State Council for consideration.
- Review of policy statements and better practice documents.
- Inquiry into Solar Panel Reuse and Recycling in Australia.

10 MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

10.1 FLYING MINUTES ENDORSED BY STATE COUNCIL

FOR NOTING

The following Flying Minutes have been endorsed by State Council since the March 2026 meeting:

- Inquiry into Australia's Aviation Sector;
- Western Power Access Arrangement 6 Framework and Approach;
- Submission on the Multicultural Act for Western Australia Discussion Paper;
- DFES Bushfire Place of Last Resort Guideline Discussion Paper; and
- Draft Renewable Energy Planning Code Submission.

The full Flying Minutes are available on the [WALGA website](#).

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*
- *Media & Communications*
- *External Affairs*
- *Events*
- *Association Governance*

The following outlines the activities of the Advocacy Portfolio since the March 2026 State Council meeting.

1. MARKETING

Employee Value Proposition

On March 31 WALGA launched its Employee Value Proposition internally. An external launch will follow throughout April. The launch included a surprise desk drop with sustainable merchandise for staff, a reveal of the EVP internal graphics along with a presentation on the research findings with a themed morning tea. Work will be ongoing to create assets for the whole of the employee lifecycle.

WALGA Members Hub

Marketing of the Level 3 Members Hub has trebled the usage of the Member hot desks and bookable rooms since January. Further promotion will continue to ensure all Members are aware of this resource.

Training Campaigns (Short Courses, Cert III & Diploma)

After a Marketing push from February 2026, registrations for WALGA's Short Courses have increased significantly, rising from 2,596 to 4,389, representing nearly 1,800 additional registrations over an eight-week period.

A new approach was taken to promote the Cert III and Diploma by presenting both as part of a connected professional journey, rather than standalone offerings. New messages, channels and mediums were introduced including:

- Instagram stories
- EDMs targeting LG employees in HR/Training/Workforce Development roles
- A dedicated landing page designed to support pathway messaging and to ease user navigation.

Overall, February showed strong year-on-year growth across all training related engagement metrics.

- Organic Search through Google returned to the number one position

- Email engagement doubled
- 93% increase in new users
- 69% engagement rate
- Cert III Conversion rate: 45%
- Diploma Conversion rate: 19%

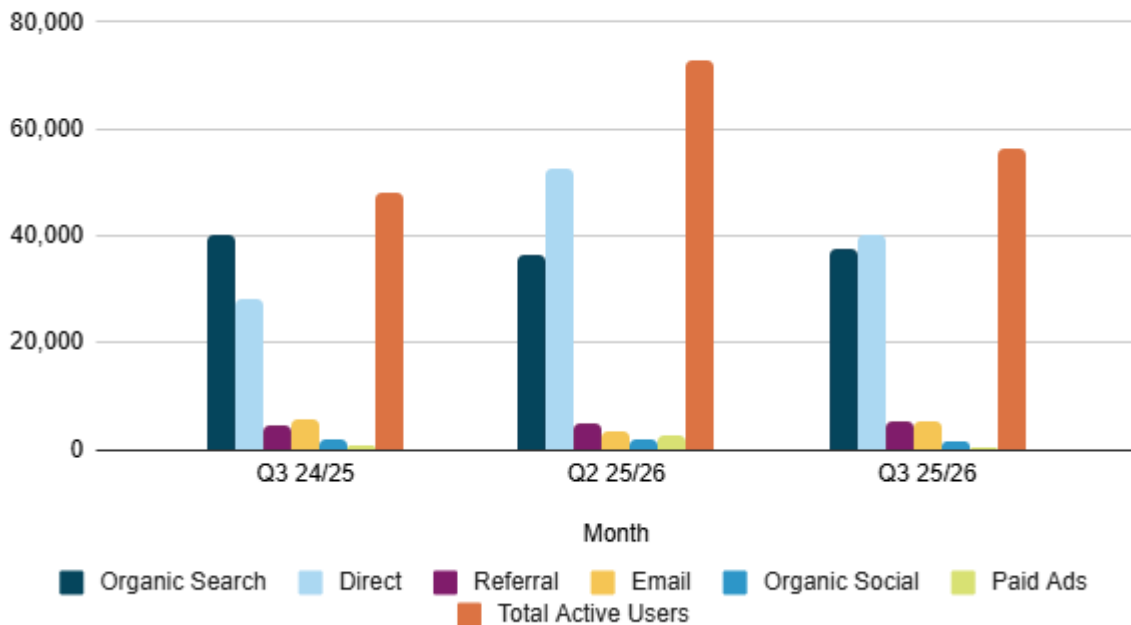
Training Material audit

A marketing audit of all training materials is currently underway to ensure they are on brand and contemporary. Due to training audit requirements, some materials cannot be reviewed while courses are in progress, meaning the audit will be phased.

WALGA Website Q3 25/26 data (Jan to March 2026)

Website traffic for Jan–Mar 2026 (Q3 25/26) is 17% higher than the same period last year, but 23% lower than the previous quarter (Q2 had unusually high traffic due to covering the Convention and October elections in the reporting period).

Quarterly Web Traffic by Source



RoadWise Website

Work is underway to integrate the RoadWise website into the existing WALGA website. This will improve navigation, strengthen the visibility of RoadWise programs and ensure a consistent brand and user experience. Completion is scheduled for the end of June.

DWER Partnership

WALGA, in partnership with DWER, launched a new social media campaign on 16 March to promote safe battery disposal. The campaign is being promoted on Meta and features an educational element, awareness through videos of firefighters, and a call to action showing how easy it is to dispose of batteries safely at collection points.

Event Campaigns

Marketing supported the promotion and production of collateral, event staging and assets for the below events.

- 2026 Aboriginal Engagement Forum
- 20206 Economic Development Case Studies launch
- 2026 Local Government Honours Awards
- 2026 Emergency Management Forum

2. COMMUNICATIONS

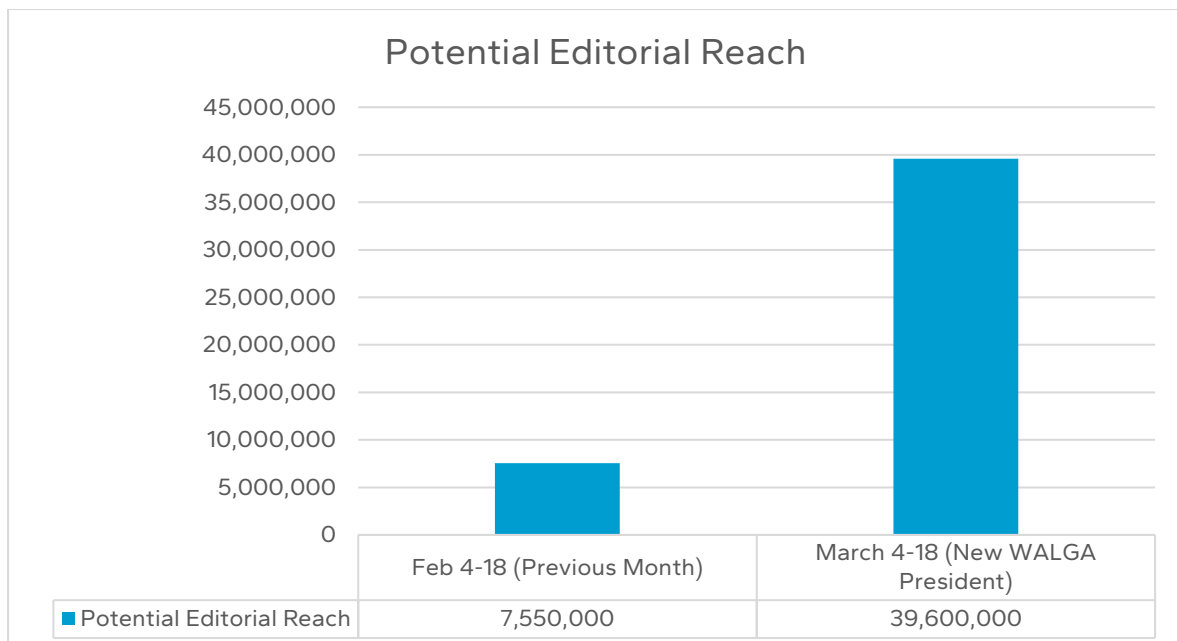
Multiple internal and external communications were prepared throughout the reporting period between Sunday, 1 February and Friday, 20 March (47 Days) including:

- Seven LG Direct weekly newsletters distributed to more than 2,000 Elected Members and senior staff
- Seven WALGA Media Releases
- Annual LG Directory to be issued in April 2026.

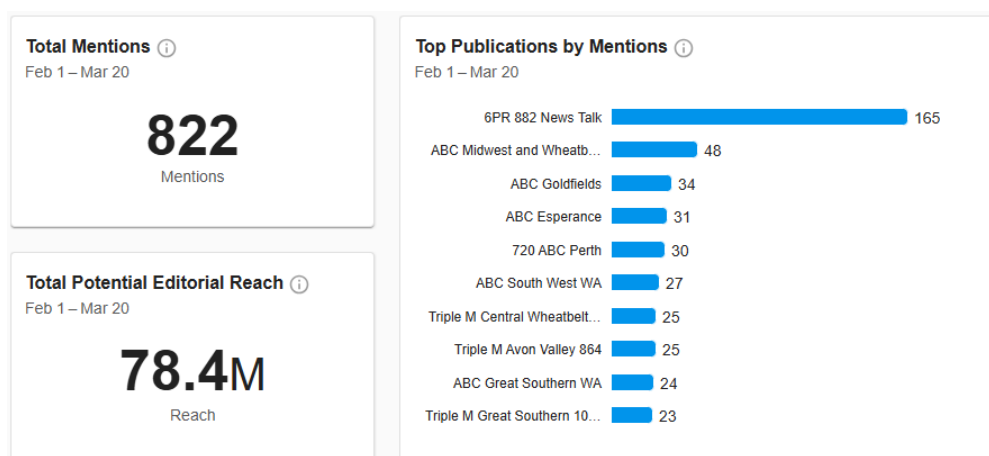
3. MEDIA

There were 822 mentions of WALGA and the WALGA President between Sunday, 1 February and Friday, 20 March (47 Days). NB: The previous reporting period was 80 days and both the current WALGA President Mark Irwin and former President Karen Chappel AM JP are captured in this reporting period.

WALGA hosted a press conference on Thursday, 5 March with the newly elected WALGA President which generated significant media interest and resulted in a 222% increase in media mentions in the first two weeks.



Overall, there has been a 74% increase from 486 in the previous reporting period. The majority of mentions were from 6PR, ABC Midwest and Wheatbelt and ABC Goldfields.



Earned Media:

WALGA has received 33 requests for comment across print, radio, television and online media. Topics included the WALGA President election, renewable energy, Local Government reform, emergency management, and cat containment.

- 4 x TV
- 20 x Print Media
- 9 x Radio

Top Advocacy mainstream media mentions by reach:

- Renewables – 14.6m
- Emergency Management – 14.6m
- Local Government Reform – 14.5m

Media Releases:

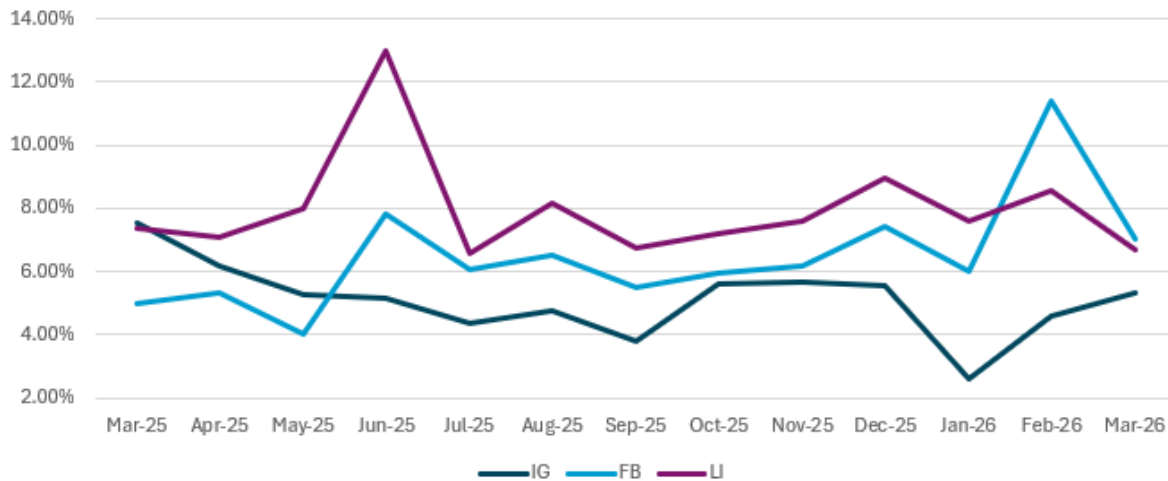
WALGA released seven proactive media statements in the reporting period, regarding the election of the new WALGA President, cat containment, renewables and the release of WALGA's Federal Budget Submission.

- [WALGA submits 2026-27 Federal Budget Submission](#) – Tuesday, 3 February
- [WALGA commends State Government extension of CoastWA program](#) – Thursday, 12 February
- [WALGA supports State Government move to introduce the Cat Amendment \(Local Laws\) Bill](#) – Friday, 20 February
- [Statement from WALGA President Karen Chappel AM JP](#) - Tuesday, 3 March
- [WALGA pays tribute to outgoing President Karen Chappel AM JP](#) - Tuesday, 3 March
- [Importance of community benefits recognised by State Government in release of Renewable Energy Guideline](#) – Wednesday, 4 March
- [City of Stirling Mayor Mark Irwin elected as WA Local Government Association President](#) – Thursday, 5 March

Social Media:

The below statistics cover the period between Sunday, 1 February and Friday, 20 March (47 Days) compared Saturday, 1 November 2025 - Tuesday, 20 January 2026 (80 days).

Social Media Engagement %



Facebook saw a spike in March with a 13% increase in post reactions which can be attributed to engagement with training campaigns and Aboriginal Engagement Forum content. Engagement on Instagram is tracking well with the highest performing post being the welcome of the new President. Whilst LinkedIn shows a decline, post engagement tracks higher (average of 33%) than Facebook (7%) and Instagram (4%).

4. GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

WALGA's external and government engagement has focused on initiating discussions with key decision makers. The WALGA President has written to all Ministers, Shadow Ministers, and State and Federal Members of Parliament to seek early meetings and explore opportunities for constructive collaboration.

5. EVENTS

2026 Aboriginal Elected Member Roundtable & Aboriginal Engagement Forum

The 2026 Aboriginal Elected Member Roundtable, held the day before the Aboriginal Engagement forum was attended by 15 Aboriginal Elected Members, including some newly elected Members in October 2025. The Roundtable session fostered meaningful collaboration and valuable peer support, while also providing firsthand insights into the barriers and issues faced by Aboriginal Elected Members in their roles, helping to inform WALGA's ongoing advocacy and sector support.

The 2026 WALGA Aboriginal Engagement Forum was held on 18 March at Kaarta Gar-up (Kings Park), bringing together more than 250 attendees from across the sector. Participants included First Nations leaders, Local Government Officers, State Government representatives and WA business owners, with 46 Local Governments represented.

The Forum was opened by State Councillor and City of Kwinana Deputy Mayor Barry Winmar, followed by addresses from the Honourable Don Punch MLA, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and WALGA President, Mark Irwin.

Survey results indicate high overall relevance, with the majority of respondents rating the Forum content as very relevant or extremely relevant to their work and local communities, and 92% indicating they are likely to attend future Forums.

2026 Mayors and Presidents Forum

The first Mayors and Presidents Forum of 2026 was held on Friday, 27 March at the WALGA Members Hub with 55 registered attendees.

Mayors and Presidents heard an address from newly elected WALGA President Mark Irwin, Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Local Government; Disability Services; Volunteering; Youth; Gascoyne, and Local Government Inspector Tony Brown. Delegates had the opportunity to engage directly with the new President through an audience Q&A session, along with questions to the Local Government Inspector.

Upcoming Events

- Economic Development Case Studies Launch - 11 May 2026
- Emergency Management Forum – 26 May 2026
- Local Government Awards – 12 June 2026
- ALGA National General Assembly - 23-25 June 2026 with WALGA Welcome Sundowner on Tuesday 23 June
- NGA WALGA Sundowner - 23 June 2026
- People and Culture Seminar - 3 July 2026
- Certificate III Virtual Graduation - 23 July 2026

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

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

The development of a road safety rating tool for intersections and a guideline for the use of Marginal Materials in road construction is progressing. During March, WALGA and the National Transport Research Organisation (NTRO) have convened a series of workshops with Local Governments and industry to develop the next pipeline of projects.

Guidelines and Specifications for Residential Crossovers

WALGA is reviewing the Residential Crossover Guidelines and Specifications to ensure they continue to meet the needs of Local Governments. Following the completion and analysis of a survey to gather feedback from Local Governments on how the document is applied, which sections are most useful, and where improvements may be required, the document is now being reviewed and revised accordingly. Further engagement will inform potential updates to the guidelines.

Heavy Vehicle Access on Local Roads

Main Roads recently announced that they were changing the access condition that requires a restricted access vehicle operator/generator to obtain a letter of approval from a Local Government (referred to as a CA07 condition) to a notification system. Main Roads allege that this condition is unlawful as only Main Roads can approve access.

This decision is contrary to the WALGA policy position that states that WALGA:

“Opposes the withdrawal of the ‘Letter of Approval’ Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition until an acceptable alternative to Local Government is developed by Main Roads WA.”

After discussions with Main Roads, they have agreed to convene a working group to develop an acceptable alternative.

2. ROAD FUNDING

Regional Road Safety Program

Work is progressing on 28 projects totalling 457km across 21 Local Governments under Tranche 1 of the Regional Road Safety Program (Local Roads). Nominations have been received and evaluated for Tranche 2 and recommendations prepared for Ministerial approval. WALGA and RAC are continuing to seek Federal Government funding support for the program in line with the State Government commitment.

Multi-Criteria Assessment (MCA) Model Revisions

WALGA continues to work with Regional Road Groups to better align the MCA models used by Regional Road Groups to prioritise projects for Road Project Grant funding with the provisions outlined in the procedures document of the State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement (Agreement). All the Regional Road Groups have commenced the MCA revision process, with the process in the Gascoyne, Great Southern, Kimberley and South-West region now complete. Significant progress has been made in each of the other regions.

3. TRANSPORT

Active Transport and Micromobility Advocacy Plan

Development of the Active Transport and Micromobility Advocacy Plan is progressing. Recent work has included reviewing the State Government's response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into eRideables, which has informed and refined the advocacy approach. The initial policy positions included a range of supporting actions, which have now been consolidated into a more focused and strategic set of advocacy actions, reducing duplication and clarifying priorities. The consolidated actions will be presented to the Infrastructure Policy Team for feedback prior to progressing to the next stage.

4. ASSET MANAGEMENT

Road Assets and Expenditure Report Project

The WALGA Infrastructure team together with the Business Intelligence & Analytics team is undertaking work to modernise the architecture and processes used to manage data and generate the annual Road Assets and Expenditure Report. The project will include the development of a database, reporting interface, and dashboard to go live in August 2026 for the data entry component of the 2025/26 report. WALGA will be delivering a range of measures to assist Local Governments to navigate the new dashboard.

Review of the WALGA Road Visual Condition Assessment Manual

A revised WALGA Road Visual Condition Assessment Manual, originally published in 2016, has been finalised and will be published soon. The revised manual will necessitate some changes to the RAMM software and to allow Local Government practitioners time to adjust proposed surveys, there will be a three-month lag period before switching RAMM to the revised manual. An instructional webinar will be delivered shortly.

Western Power

WALGA continues to liaise with Western Power to support more efficient and timely delivery of Local Governments projects with impacts to Western Power infrastructure. WALGA successfully advocated for Western Power to reintroduce the option for Local Governments to undertake streetlighting installation and modification projects using approved consultants and contractors (Option B). This allows Local Governments to circumvent the

lengthy and costly Western Power process for programming, funding, and implementing streetlighting projects, offering significant cost and time savings on projects. WALGA is seeking to promote this choice to Local Governments, so Western Power retain it.

Economic Regulation Authority (ERA) Framework and Approach

While the ERA is finalising the Framework and Approach for Access Arrangement 6, Western Power is keen to engage with the Local Government sector to better understand customer expectations and include these in their proposed Access Arrangement. Meetings have been proposed for coming months, and work is underway to identify Local Governments keen to participate in the process.

Telecommunications

Despite regular meetings with Telstra, the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development and other stakeholders, work to define an operational model and agreements that would enable deployment by Local Governments of backup generators to support telecommunications during power failures is progressing only slowly.

WALGA is working to provide a submission to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee Inquiry into the Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation) Bill 2025. The stated objectives of this Bill are strongly aligned with the Association's advocacy position. Whether the proposed legislation will achieve these objectives needs consideration. This submission would reinforce existing advocacy positions.

5. ROAD SAFETY

Road Safety Council

The Road Safety Council met on 6 March, primarily to consider submissions for Road Trauma Trust Account (RTTA) funding. The other matters considered at that meeting included: eligibility criteria for RTTA submissions, serious injuries reporting and safer speeds. The Road Safety Council meet next in June. The Road Safety Council Communiques can viewed at [Road Safety Council Meeting Communiques](#).

11.1.3 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, MEMBER SERVICES PORTFOLIO

By Kirsty Martin, Executive Manager Member Services

FOR NOTING

The Member Services Portfolio comprises the following work units:

- *Commercial Contract Services*
- *Commercial Development*
- *Commercial Management*
- *Employee Relations*
- *Governance and Procurement*
- *Training*

The following outlines the activities of the Member Services Portfolio since the March 2026 State Council meeting.

1. COMMERCIAL

A tender was undertaken to increase the number of Aboriginal businesses within the WALGA Preferred Supplier Program (PSP) and there are now 66 Aboriginal businesses prequalified on the program. WALGA has also enhanced its Preferred Supplier website Directory to enable filtering functionality to identify Aboriginal businesses.

The current round of Preferred Supplier onboarding has 169 tender respondents, with evaluation and contracting intended to be completed by July.

A new supply category of Building Inspection Services has been added to the PSP with new suppliers currently being contracted.

ARENA Project

WALGA is currently finalising the last deliverables for the ARENA project, in line with the planned conclusion prior to the end of this financial year.

2. EMPLOYEE RELATIONS (ER)

WALGA continues to represent the sector in applications in the WA Industrial Relations Commission (WAIRC), including:

- Applications CICS 5, 8 and 9 of 2023 - Union demarcation dispute and associated applications:
 - CICS 5, 8 and 9 of 2023 is an application by the Western Australian Municipal, Administrative, Clerical and Services Union of Employees (WASU), for coverage of Local Government employees to the exclusion of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union of Workers (CFMEUW) (the Demarcation claim).
 - The Local Government, Racing and Cemeteries Employees Union (LGRCEU) and WALGA are intervenors.
 - The Demarcation claim was heard by the WAIRC, sitting as the Commission in Court Session (CICS), over 41 days in July and October of 2024 and October and November 2025. The CICS has reserved its decision in the Demarcation claim. Given the length of the hearing, the number of witnesses and amount of

evidence produced during the hearing it is not possible to predict when the Demarcation claim decision will be handed down.

- State Wage Case:
 - Annually the WAIRC in Court Session issues a decision setting the WA minimum wage.
 - The WAIRC has called for submissions that are due by 13 May 2026. WALGA will submit a written submission on behalf of the Local Government sector, see Item under Separate Cover for endorsement by State Council.

WALGA's Salary and Workforce Survey closed on 21 November 2025. 92 Local Governments completed the survey (84 WA and 8 Northern Territory Local Governments). The results of the survey have been compiled into a report, and a webinar was held on 11 March 2026 to share key highlights. Subscribers of the ER Service who completed the survey have full access to the results of the survey and the report as part of their subscription.

3. GOVERNANCE AND PROCUREMENT

WALGA continues to provide a high level of support to Local Governments implementing the ongoing program of Local Government Act reforms.

The Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) requirements, which commenced on 1 January 2026, have been an area of significant focus. WALGA has assisted Local Governments with the transitional arrangements for existing audit committees, the mandatory appointments of independent persons, payments to committee members and presiding arrangements when the presiding member is unavailable. To assist in developing the skills of independent members, WALGA has developed and delivered a new training course *Essential Skills for Independent ARIC Members*. The course featured a guest presentation by Grant Robinson, Assistant Auditor General Financial Audit from the Office of the Auditor General and was well received by participants. Expressions of interest for future delivery dates are being received.

4. TRAINING

WALGA Training has had a very busy start to 2026, with a record 89 On-Site courses booked for this financial year.

Certificate III in Local Government

Our February intake enjoyed strong enrolment numbers with eight Trainees and two Fee for Service students starting their Certificate III journey with WALGA Training. Our next intake is also looking strong with two Trainees and three Fee for Service already being signed up.

On 25 February, we celebrated the graduation of 14 students, receiving their Certificate III in Local Government. This brings us to a historic point as our Alumni has now 50 graduates. This is quite a milestone achievement.

Council Member Essentials

Overall, Councillors are well underway and progressing through their Council Member Essentials training. In October 2025, a total of 578 Councillors were elected, 231 of them are newly Elected Members.

Diploma of Local Government – Elected Member

In collaboration with the Marketing Team, a comprehensive campaign is underway to promote the next Diploma intake on 4 May, with registrations closing on 23 April. The campaign features Georgie Carey's journey from Councillor and Deputy Mayor for two

terms to now studying a Master in Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School. Georgie encourages Elected Members to “Take the time to learn; about your community, your fellow Councillors and how Local Government really works”.

New eLearning courses coming

Local Government Design Review Panel

WALGA is working in collaboration with the Government Architect of Western Australia (GAWA) and the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) to develop a set of new Local Government Design Review eLearning courses. The aim of this training is to make design review clearer, easier and more consistent for key stakeholders, such as Local Government officers, panel members and panel chairs.

New Officer Induction Training being developed in 2026

Currently there is one induction training course available to officers: “Introduction to Local Government”. WALGA is developing three new eLearning courses over the next year, including:

- Introduction to Ethical Behaviour;
- Procurement Foundations in Local Government; and
- Introduction to Recordkeeping.

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:

- *Economic Policy and Development*
- *Environment and Waste*
- *Planning and Building*
- *Emergency Management*
- *Community*

The following outlines the activities of the Policy Portfolio since the March 2026 State Council meeting.

1. ECONOMICS

The WALGA Economic Briefing for quarter 1 of 2026 will be released in April. A key consideration is the impact of rising oil prices as a result of the war in the Middle East.

2. ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE

H5 Bird Flu Webinar

On 18 March, WALGA held a webinar to provide an update to 85 Local Government representatives on the current status of H5 Bird Flu and the work the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) has been undertaking in relation to preparedness. The webinar also outlined the work WALGA has been doing to assist Local Governments with preparedness. Australia remains the only continent free of H5 Bird Flu.

Cat Act Review

On 26 March, the WALGA Governance and Environment Teams hosted a webinar to seek feedback from 83 Local Government representatives on necessary changes to the Cat Act as part of developing the WALGA Submission on the Review, which closes in August 2026. This Review follows WALGA's successful advocacy to modify the legislation to allow Local Governments to include Cat Containment in Local Laws.

Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) Engagement

WALGA is continuing advocacy on PSHB, meeting with representatives from DPIRD to discuss the ongoing needs of the sector. On 19 March, DPIRD held a national workshop with stakeholders across Australia and international presentations on the management of PSHB.

3. PLANNING AND BUILDING

Urban Greening Strategy – Let's Grow Action Plan 2026-2030

Following the release of the Urban Greening Strategy for Whadjuk (Perth) and Bindjareb (Peel) *Let's Grow: Leafy & Liveable Communities* in January 2026, the State Government has released the [Let's Grow Action Plan 2026-2030](#) and Let's Grow Grant Program. The Action Plan outlines 66 actions, with 11 identifying Local Government or WALGA as co-leads. One of these actions includes establishing a *Let's Grow* Local Government Facilitator to support

best-practice greening outcomes across the sector. The Facilitator will be grant funded and employed by WALGA.

The [Grant Program](#) has committed \$10 million over four years to deliver the Let's Grow Grants, with \$2.5 million allocated each financial year. This round of grant programs is targeted at community groups, schools and charities in the Perth and Peel regions. Local Governments can be a project sponsor for these groups. Round One is open until 30 June 2026, with grants of between \$500 to \$100,000 (ex. GST) available. The grant program provides funding for trees, understorey and associated supplementary items. While there is no dedicated Let's Grow grant stream for Local Government in the current round, WALGA is discussing opportunities for future rounds.

4. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Project

The LEMA Improvement Program is on track to conclude on 15 April 2026, delivering three key products: a LEMA Development Model, revised LEMA templates and guidance, and an online Statement of Policy, the [Knowledge Hub](#). WALGA has supported this work in its role as sector liaison with a focus on practical, consistent outcomes for Local Government.

WALGA 2026 Emergency Management Forum – 26 May

Building on the success of last year's sold-out event, WALGA's Emergency Management Forum is back for 2026, taking place on Tuesday, 26 May. The Forum theme, 'One State, Many Realities' will delve into WA's evolving emergency management landscape and provide industry experts, sector leaders, change makers and EM practitioners with a day of learning and collaboration across all facets of emergency management. Tickets are available now via the [WALGA website](#).

CEO Bushfire Roundtable

The WALGA CEO Bushfire Roundtable brings together Local Government CEOs and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) to discuss key bushfire management issues. It is designed to provide a direct line of communication between DFES and Local Government leadership, a space to raise emerging issues affecting brigade management, resourcing and capability. It also provides an opportunity for DFES to provide updates and seek feedback from Local Government CEOs. This year's Roundtable was held on 23 March at the Bushfire Centre of Excellence. The key discussion topics covered experiences from the 2025–26 High Threat Weather period, volunteers and workforce sustainability, work health and safety, bushfire risk mitigation, and governance.

Local Government Grants Scheme Advocacy

At the 5 March 2026 meeting of the State Bushfire Advisory Council (SBAC), WALGA presented a Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGGS) Discussion Paper, highlighting that the Scheme is no longer delivering on its foundational intent of fully funding volunteer and career bushfire services, and that the scale and urgency of current funding and system issues now requires coordinated reform across the sector, agencies and Ministerial level.

The SBAC, formally established in 2019, provides advice to the Minister for Emergency Services and the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner on bushfire management in Western Australia, drawing on the skills, knowledge and practical experience of members from across the bushfire management sector, including volunteers and community representatives. WALGA is a founding member of the SBAC.

The SBAC Chair has written to the Minister and the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner recommending consideration of the issues and decision points outlined in the WALGA Paper and an independent review of the LGGs.

WALGA will continue to advocate for reform of the LGGs to ensure a sustainable and equitable funding model that meets the future needs of bushfire response and, in the interim, additional funding to clear the backlog of unfunded capital grants requests.

5. COMMUNITY

Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) and Club Night Lights Program Funding Review

WALGA is continuing to work with the State Government to seek more information on the timing and outcomes of the current funding pause to the CSRFF and Club Night Lights Programs. WALGA is developing an advocacy plan and working with Local Governments to understand the impacts of the funding review and uncertainty of future rounds.

2026 Aboriginal Elected Member Roundtable (AEM Roundtable)

WALGA hosted its second AEM Roundtable on 17 March 2026 and successfully built on the foundations established in 2025. Fifteen Aboriginal Elected Members joined WALGA's President, Senior Executive Team and the Director General of the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) to share their experience of leading and representing their communities on Council. Feedback from participants was very positive.

WALGA invited LGIRS to join the Roundtable to hear directly what would support Aboriginal Elected Members to thrive in their Council roles. These insights will enable WALGA to work collaboratively with LGIRS to fulfil the Department's commitment to support Aboriginal Elected Members made at the 2025 Aboriginal Engagement Forum.

2026 Aboriginal Engagement Forum

The 2026 Aboriginal Engagement Forum was held at the State Reception Centre, Kaarta Gar-up | Kings Park, on 18 March. The theme of the Forum was Empowerment in Action | Kaarditjin kwop Koorliny. The program content focused on opportunities for Local Government to build pathways to employment, business and leadership.

The event sold out with approximately 250 attendees, and a record number of Aboriginal Elected Members, Aboriginal Local and State Government officers and community partners. Within the program, the Forum promoted key projects WALGA has delivered over the past 12 months, including increasing the number and visibility of Aboriginal businesses on WALGA's Preferred Supplier Panels, and Kolbang Yanginy, the online Local Government Reconciliation Resource developed in partnership with Reconciliation WA and State Government partners.

Rural and Remote Primary Health

In January 2026, WALGA published the finding of the [Local Government General Practice Support Survey 2025](#). The survey findings have informed WALGA's ongoing advocacy including meetings with the State Health Minister, media coverage of the issue and developing potential policy solutions with health sector partners.

WALGA has also provided a submission on behalf of the sector to the [Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee inquiry into Rural, regional and remote](#)

[Medicare access and funding](#). The submission aligns to Advocacy Position 3.2.2 Rural and Remote Healthcare Services and is available to review on the WALGA website.

Independent Child Safeguarding Oversight Body

In October 2025, the State Government [announcement](#) the appointment of the Ombudsman Western Australia as the independent oversight body for organisations who engage in child-related work. In March 2026, WALGA met with the Director of Independent Oversight who shared their intended direction of capacity building and support for the oversight function. WALGA will continue to work with the Ombudsman WA to share information and support with Members.

WALGA Public Library Forum

On 13 February WALGA delivered the Public Library Forum for Local Government librarians. The Forum focused on the facilitation of community partnerships with presentations including community partnership examples from the City of Cockburn and other libraries across the state. Public librarians from across the state participated in-person and online.

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 1 July 2026 commencing at 4:15pm.

14 CLOSURE

STATUS REPORT ON STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
<p>4 March 2026 Item 9.1 Aviation Advocacy Positions</p>	<p>That State Council endorse two new Advocacy Positions on Aviation as follows:</p> <p>1. Regional Airports WALGA supports the sustainable operation of Local Government owned regional airports and advocates for proportionate regulatory frameworks, targeted funding, and operational guidance to ensure safe, efficient, and resilient airport infrastructure and services.</p> <p>2. Regional and Remote Air Services WALGA advocates for reliable, affordable, and equitable regional air services, calling for greater oversight of airline pricing practices, including providing adequate capacity net of contracted (FIFO) seats, transparent fare structures and equitable access to discounted and lower-cost fares, to mitigate the impacts of limited competition and dynamic pricing on regional residents, businesses, and essential travel. WALGA also promotes the continued viability of essential routes and recognises regional aviation as an essential service supporting community and emergency access, workforce mobility, and regional economic development.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 003.1/2026</p>	<p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.</p>	<p>COMPLETE</p>	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure</p>

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
4 March 2026 Item 9.2 Proposed Amendments to AGM Standing Orders	That State Council endorse the updated AGM Standing Orders. RESOLUTION 004.1/2026	The WALGA AGM Standing Orders have been updated and are available on the WALGA website .	COMPLETE	Rachel Horton Executive Manager Advocacy
4 March 2026 Item 9.3 Request for Delegated Authority – State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee (SAC)	That State Council approves by Flying Minute confirmation of the three appointments to the vacant positions on the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee (SAC) as recommended by the Selection Committee. RESOLUTION 005.1/2026	The three vacant positions on SAC were advertised to Members. Applications have now closed. A special meeting of the Selection Committee will be held on 7 April to consider applications received. A Flying Agenda including the recommendations of the Committee will be distributed to State Council for endorsement immediately following the special meeting.	Ongoing	Rachel Horton Executive Manager Advocacy
3 December 2025 Item 7.1 Transport Oriented Development Advocacy Position	That: 1. State Council request WALGA to prepare an Advocacy Position in consultation with members, regarding the transport and planning principals required to ensure quality outcomes in the newly announced "Station Precinct Improvement Plans and Schemes" in Metropolitan Perth and regional stations if included. 2. The Advocacy Position includes transport and place-making outcomes on both government controlled and private land that maximise liveability and use of the public transport network. RESOLUTION 069.5/2025	WALGA has commenced development of a draft position. Council Reports and Recommendations in relation to the 10 Train Station Precincts have been analysed and WALGA's Planning Advisory Group has been engaged to provide input into the content of the advocacy position.	Ongoing	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy

<p>3 December 2025 Item 8.1 2025 Annual General Meeting Resolutions</p>	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the following resolutions from the 2025 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the People and Place Policy Team for further work to be undertaken: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7.1 Provision of Medical Services in Remote and Very Remote Local Governments 7.2 Homelessness – Short-term Accommodation Solutions <p>RESOLUTION 070.5/2025</p> <p><i>The AGM resolutions are as follows:</i></p> <p>7.1 Provision of Medical Services in Remote and Very Remote Local Governments <i>That WALGA calls on the Western Australian Government and WA Grants Commission to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>increase the total funding and then the Medical Facilities Cost Adjuster component of the Financial Assistance Grants to Local Governments; and</i> 2. <i>recalculate distributions to those Local Governments that are providing block cash payments to attract and retain general practitioners to allow affected Council to redirect ratepayer funds to Local Government responsibilities.</i> <p>7.2 Homelessness – Short-term Accommodation Solutions <i>That WALGA advocate to the State Government to provide culturally appropriate short term accommodation options and wrap-around support services that provide sustainable homelessness solutions in all Local Governments across Western Australia.</i></p>	<p>In relation to AGM item 7.1 – Improving access to primary healthcare services in rural and remote areas remains an advocacy priority for WALGA, supported by the WALGA 2025 General Practice Support Survey Report published in January 2026.</p> <p>This advocacy priority is also reflected in the current Federal and State Budget Submissions and aligned to the revised Advocacy Position endorsed by State Council in September 2025.</p> <p>WALGA is exploring opportunities for partnership advocacy on this matter with health sector stakeholders. This work includes developing solution options. Progress will be shared with State Council in due course.</p> <p>In relation to AGM item 7.2 – WALGA undertook a Local Government Homelessness Survey in February 2026 to inform a review of the current WALGA homelessness Advocacy Position that includes the need for funding for social and affordable housing and wraparound services. Item 8.5 refers to this.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>
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MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
<p>3 December 2025 Item 8.1 2025 Annual General Meeting Resolutions</p>	<p>That: ... 2. the following resolution from the 2025 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Governance Policy Team for further work to be undertaken: 7.4 Rating Exemption Advocacy Position</p> <p>RESOLUTION 070.5/2025</p> <p><i>The AGM resolution is as follows:</i></p> <p>7.4 Rating Exemption Advocacy Position <i>That WALGA, in addition to its current advocacy positions 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 relating to rating exemptions, advocate to the WA Government for the introduction of a reimbursement model, whereby the WA Government repays Local Government the greater of:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 75% of the value of rates lost in applying the charitable purposes exemption; or 2. 1% of the total rate revenue of the Local Government. 	<p>This item has been referred to the Governance Policy Team for further consideration.</p> <p>WALGA's current advocacy positions call for a broad review into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories, with a particular focus on the charitable purpose's exemption. WALGA has also included funding for a review of rates in its most recent State Budget submission.</p> <p>Additional concerns regarding rating and rating exemptions have arisen. Further scoping work is being undertaken to consider the most effective way to address these concerns.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services</p>
<p>3 December 2025 Item 8.1 2025 Annual General Meeting Resolutions</p>	<p>That: ... 3. the following resolution from the 2025 WALGA Annual General Meeting be endorsed: 7.5 Rateability of Miscellaneous Licences</p> <p>RESOLUTION 070.5/2025</p> <p><i>The AGM resolution is as follows:</i></p> <p>7.5 Rateability of Miscellaneous Licences <i>That WALGA:</i></p>	<p>Advocacy position 2.1.18 Rating of Miscellaneous Licences was adopted by State Council in September 2025.</p> <p>Correspondence has been sent to the Premier and Minister for Local Government. Opposition parties have been briefed.</p> <p>The Bill has been deferred in the Legislative Council.</p>	<p>COMPLETE</p>	<p>Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services</p>

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formally oppose any move by the Local Government Minister to introduce amendments to the Local Government Act to restrict the application of rates on Miscellaneous Licenses. 2. Develop an advocacy position on sector consultation prior to any amendment to the Local Government Act. 3. Undertake a financial analysis of the cost to the Mining Industry of the rating of Miscellaneous Licenses compared to the benefit to the Local Government sector. 	<p>Funding for the broad review of rating exemptions is included in the State Budget submission.</p>		
<p>3 December 2025 Item 8.2 2026 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members</p>	<p>That State Council endorse the submission to the 2026 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members, with the following additions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A new recommendation that the Regional/Isolation Allowance be reviewed in full, noting that the application of the Allowance is inequal and inconsistent. 2. A new recommendation that an appropriate fee be set for the deputy to the presiding member of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees to attend meetings. 3. A new recommendation that the travel costs incurred while driving a privately owned or leased vehicle be calculated at the same rate contained in the <i>Public Service Award 1992</i> to bring it in parity with the public sector. 4. The percentage values in recommendations 1 and 2 of the submission be amended from 3% to 4%. 5. Include a work-value argument regarding Elected Member remuneration to strengthen the case for an increase to Elected Member fees and allowances, and to refer the request to reclassify 	<p>The submission to SAT was updated to include those additional points and provided to the Tribunal on 6 January 2026.</p> <p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has also been updated to reflect the recommendations contained in the submission.</p> <p>The request to reclassify Elected Members as not volunteers (as per point 5 of the resolution) has been referred to the Governance Policy Team for further consideration.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Rachel Horton Executive Manager Advocacy</p> <p>Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services</p>

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	Elected Members as not volunteers to the relevant Policy Team. RESOLUTION 073.5/2025			
3 December 2025 Item 8.5 Electoral Material – Authorisation Statement Address Requirements	That: 1. WALGA advocate to the State Government to amend section 4.87 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> to: a. Replace the requirement to include the name and address of the person authorising the electoral material, with a requirement to include the name and locality of the person authorising the material. b. Remove the requirement for the name and business address of the electoral material printer to appear at the end of the electoral material. 2. The suggestion from the South East Metropolitan Zone to advocate to amend section 5.95 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> to specify that the right to inspect Primary and Annual Returns contained in the Register of Financial Interests under s.5.94(b) does not extend to the residential address of the relevant person be referred to the Governance Policy Team so that a full report can be presented to State Council for consideration. RESOLUTION 077.5/2025	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated. A new advocacy position addressing Resolution 2 was considered by the Governance Policy Team on 23 March 2026. Item 8.1 relates to this matter.	Ongoing	Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services
5 September 2025	That WALGA: 1. Advocate for Local Governments to continue to have the ability to rate miscellaneous licences under the <i>Mining Act 1978</i> , and	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.	Ongoing	Kirsty Martin Executive Manager

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
Item 8.2 Rating of Miscellaneous Licenses	<p>2. Oppose legislative amendments that seek to exempt occupied miscellaneous licence land from rating.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 050.4/2025</p>	<p>Correspondence has been sent to the Premier and Minister for Local Government. Opposition parties have been briefed.</p> <p>The Bill has been deferred by the Legislative Council.</p> <p>In addition, funding for the broad review of rating exemptions is included in the State Budget submission.</p>		Member Services
<p>2 July 2025</p> <p>Item 8.1 Suspension and Disqualification for Offences Advocacy Position</p>	<p>That WALGA defers consideration of this matter for further work, including:</p> <p>a. defining appropriately serious offences for intervention; and</p> <p>b. addressing the role of the Local Government Inspector.</p> <p>c. evaluating whether advocacy for disqualification based on convictions under the Planning and Development Act 2005 and Building Act 2011 should be retained.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 037.3/2025</p>	<p>Work has commenced on defining appropriately serious offences for intervention.</p> <p>Further work will be undertaken pending clarification of the role of the Office of the Inspector.</p>	Ongoing	Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services
<p>5 March 2025</p> <p>Item 9.1 Infrastructure Policy Team Report</p>	<p>That State Council:</p> <p>1. Note the report from the Infrastructure Policy Team for the 5 March 2025 meeting.</p> <p>2. Determine to:</p> <p>a. Delete Advocacy Position 5.2.8 (Towards Zero Road Safety Strategy 2008 – 2020).</p> <p>b. Amend the title of Advocacy Position 5.2.7 from Road Safety Strategy (Imagine Zero) to Driving Change Road Safety Strategy 2020-2030.</p>	<p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.</p> <p>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.</p>	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	<p>3. Undertake further policy development and consultation with Members regarding the default open road speed limit in Western Australia.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 013.1/2025</p>			
<p>6 December 2024 Item 8.1 2024 Annual General Meeting Resolutions</p>	<p>That:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>...</p> <p>3. the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Governance Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:</p> <p>7.2 Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-Banking</p> <p>7.3 Advocacy for Expansion of Differential Rating to Include Long Term Unoccupied Commercial Buildings (Property Activation Levy).</p> <p>RESOLUTION 089.5/2024</p>	<p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.</p> <p><i>Cat Amendment (Local Laws) Bill 2026</i> was introduced on 25 February 2026, which will allow Local Governments to include cat containment in Local Laws. WALGA will continue to engage with Local Government and advocate for a collaborative, and resourced, approach will be needed.</p> <p>WALGA sought legal advice which confirmed that amendments to the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> (the Act) would be required to allow differential rating based on occupancy status.</p> <p>A joint meeting of the Governance and Environment Policy teams was held on 12 September. The Joint Policy Teams considered that there was a significant level of risk associated with the proposal and that it should not proceed. Instead, incentives and activation</p>	<p>COMPLETE</p>	<p>Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services</p>

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
		<p>programs can be explored by Local Governments to encourage occupancy of buildings.</p>		
<p>6 December 2024 Item 8.2 Local Government Elections Advocacy Positions</p>	<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"> 1. <i>Councillors serve four-year terms with elections every two years and half of the Council positions spilled at each election.</i> 2. <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> 3. <i>First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for internal Council elections.</i> 4. <i>Councils holding elections by means of in-person, postal and/or electronic voting.</i> 5. <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>Correspondence has been sent to the Minister for Local Government advising on the five Advocacy Positions endorsed.</p> <p>Investigation of the implications of compulsory and voluntary voting continued with engagement from the Governance Policy Team.</p> <p>State Council endorsed a Discussion Paper for the purpose of sector consultation by Flying Minute on 20 January 2026.</p> <p>Sector consultation has been undertaken and an item has been included in the May State Council Agenda. Item 8.2 relates to this matter.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services</p>