

State Council Summary Minutes 4 March 2026

Ordinary meeting no. 1 of 2026 of the Western Australian Local Government Association State Council held at ONE70, LV3, 170 Railway Parade, West Leederville at 3:15pm.

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1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1 OPENING

The meeting commenced at 3:16pm.

1.2 ATTENDANCE

Members	WALGA President	Karen Chappel AM JP (<i>Items 1 – 2</i>)
	WALGA Deputy President	Mark Irwin (<i>Items 4 – 15</i>)
	Avon-Midland Country Zone	Chris Antonio
	Central Country Zone	Phillip Blight
	Central Metropolitan Zone	Helen Sadler
	Central Metropolitan Zone	Paul Kelly
	East Metropolitan Zone	Paige McNeil
	East Metropolitan Zone	Cate McCullough
	Gascoyne Country Zone	Matthew Niikkula
	Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	Laurene Bonza
	Great Eastern Country Zone	Stephen Strange
	Great Southern Country Zone	Scott Crosby
	Kimberley Country Zone	Chris Mitchell JP
	Murchison Country Zone	Les Price
	North Metropolitan Zone	VACANT
	North Metropolitan Zone	Lewis Hutton
	North Metropolitan Zone	Eman Seif JP
	Northern Country Zone	Elizabeth Sudlow
	Peel Country Zone	Mike Walmsley
	Pilbara Country Zone	Audra Smith
	South East Metropolitan Zone	Patrick Hall
	South East Metropolitan Zone	Terresa Lynes
	South Metropolitan Zone	Robert Schmidt
	South Metropolitan Zone	Karen Wheatland
	South Metropolitan Zone	Barry Winmar
	South West Country Zone	Donelle Buegg
Secretariat	Chief Executive Officer	Nick Sloan
	Executive Manager Member Services	Kirsty Martin
	Executive Manager Infrastructure	Ian Duncan
	Executive Manager Policy	Nicole Matthews
	Executive Manger Advocacy	Rachel Horton
	Chief Financial Officer	Rick Murray
	Manager Association and Corporate Governance	Kathy Robertson
	State Council Governance Officer	Habiba Farrag
Observers	City of Bayswater	Mayor Filomena Piffaretti
	City of Nedlands	Commissioner Bianca Sandri
	City of Stirling	Cr Karlo Perkov
	Avon-Midland Country Zone	Cr Lincoln Stewart (<i>Deputy</i>)
	Central Metropolitan Zone	Cr Liam Gobbert JP (<i>Deputy</i>)
	East Metropolitan Zone	Cr Rod Henderson (<i>Deputy</i>)

WALGA Policy Manager Community	Hannah Godsave
WALGA External Affairs Manager	Dana Mason
WALGA Manager Commercial Services	Sam McLeod

1.3 APOLOGIES

Ex Officio	The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor – City of Perth Local Government Professionals WA President	Lord Mayor, Bruce Reynolds Mr Scott Wildgoose
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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.

Karen Chappel AM JP vacated the Chair. Karen left the meeting at 3:17pm and did not return.

3 ELECTION OF WALGA PRESIDENT AND DEPUTY PRESIDENT

An election for the position of WALGA President and Deputy President was conducted in accordance with clause 16A of the Association Constitution.

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Nick Sloan, acted as the Returning Officer.

Nominations opened on Thursday, 5 February 2026 and closed at 5:00pm on Monday, 23 February 2026.

The term of office of both the President and Deputy President is for a two (2) year period from 4 March 2026 and expires at the first ordinary meeting of State Council in 2028.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

The following nominations were received for President (in alphabetical order):

- Patrick Hall
- Mark Irwin
- Paul Kelly
- Terresa Lynes
- Paige McNeil
- Barry Winmar

Each candidate's nomination was distributed to State Councillors for consideration.

An election was conducted by secret ballot after each candidate was afforded a maximum of four (4) minutes to support their nomination. The order of speaking for candidates was randomly generated prior to the meeting.

DECLARATION

That Mark Irwin has been elected as WALGA President for a two (2) year term commencing immediately and concluding on the first ordinary State Council meeting of 2028.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT

The following nominations were received for Deputy President (in alphabetical order):

- Chris Antonio
- Laurene Bonza
- Stephen Strange

Each candidate's nomination was distributed to State Councillors for consideration.

An election was conducted by secret ballot after each candidate was afforded a maximum of four (4) minutes to support their nomination. The order of speaking for candidates was randomly generated prior to the meeting.

Lewis Hutton left the meeting at 4:10pm and did not return.

DECLARATION

That Chris Antonio has been elected as WALGA Deputy President for a two (2) year term commencing immediately and concluding on the first ordinary State Council meeting of 2028.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:14pm.

The meeting resumed at 4:26pm with WALGA President, Mark Irwin, as Chair.

WALGA staff Dana Mason, Hannah Godsave and Sam McLeod joined the meeting at 4:26pm.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nil.

5 MINUTES

5.1 MINUTES OF THE STATE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 3 DECEMBER 2025

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Paige McNeil
Seconded: Laurene Bonza

That the Minutes of the WALGA State Council meeting held on [3 December 2025](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

RESOLUTION 001.1/2026

CARRIED

5.1.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE STATE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 3 DECEMBER 2025

Nil.

5.2 FLYING MINUTE – 2026-27 STATE BUDGET SUBMISSION

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Barry Winmar
Seconded: Chris Mitchell JP

That the [Flying Minute – 2026-27 State Budget Submission](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of decision.

RESOLUTION 002.1/2026

CARRIED

5.2.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE – 2026-27 STATE BUDGET SUBMISSION

Nil.

5.3 FLYING MINUTE – SELECT COMMITTEE INTO LAND DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Barry Winmar
Seconded: Chris Mitchell JP

That the [Flying Minute – Select Committee into Land Development and Planning](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of decision.

RESOLUTION 002.1/2026

CARRIED

5.3.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE – SELECT COMMITTEE INTO LAND DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

Nil.

5.4 FLYING MINUTE – STATUTORY REVIEW OF THE *WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT 2020* WALGA SUBMISSION

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Barry Winmar
Seconded: Chris Mitchell JP

That the [Flying Minute – Statutory Review of the *Work Health and Safety 2020 Act* WALGA Submission](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of decision.

RESOLUTION 002.1/2026

CARRIED

5.4.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE – STATUTORY REVIEW OF THE *WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT 2020* WALGA SUBMISSION

Nil.

5.5 FLYING MINUTE – WALGA SUBMISSION ON THE DRAFT STATE WASTE STRATEGY

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Barry Winmar
Seconded: Chris Mitchell JP

That the [Flying Minute – WALGA Submission on the Draft State Waste Strategy](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of decision.

RESOLUTION 002.1/2026

CARRIED

5.5.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE – WALGA SUBMISSION ON THE DRAFT STATE WASTE STRATEGY

Nil.

5.6 FLYING MINUTE – INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Barry Winmar
Seconded: Chris Mitchell JP

That the [Flying Minute – Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of decision.

RESOLUTION 002.1/2026

CARRIED

5.6.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE – INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

Nil.

5.7 FLYING MINUTE – SECTOR CONSULTATION – COMPULSORY AND VOLUNTARY VOTING AND ELECTION FREQUENCY

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Barry Winmar
Seconded: Chris Mitchell JP

That the [Flying Minute – Sector Consultation – Compulsory and Voluntary Voting and Election Frequency](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of decision.

RESOLUTION 002.1/2026

CARRIED

5.7.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE – SECTOR CONSULTATION – COMPULSORY AND VOLUNTARY VOTING AND ELECTION FREQUENCY

Nil.

6 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.

- Chris Antonio declared an interest in item 9.9 – LGISWA Board Director Sitting Fees.
- Paul Kelly declared an interest in item 9.9 – LGISWA Board Director Sitting Fees.

7 EX OFFICIO REPORTS

7.1 CITY OF PERTH REPORT

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

7.2 LG PROFESSIONALS REPORT

Mr Scott Wildgoose, President, LG Professionals WA, was an apology for this meeting.

8 EMERGING ISSUES

Notification of emerging issues must be provided to the Chair no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Nil.

9 MATTERS FOR DECISION

9.1 AVIATION ADVOCACY POSITIONS

By Negar Nili, Policy Officer Transport and Roads

COMPOSITE RECOMMENDATION

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 access, workforce mobility, and regional economic development.

ALTERNATE MOTION

Moved: Stephen Strange
Seconded: Les Price

That State Council endorse two new Advocacy Positions on Aviation 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.

RESOLUTION 003.1/2026

CARRIED

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY STATE COUNCILLORS (UNDER SEPARATE COVER)

9.2 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO AGM STANDING ORDERS

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

**Moved: Paul Kelly
Seconded: Barry Winmar**

That State Council endorse the updated AGM Standing Orders.

RESOLUTION 004.1/2026

CARRIED

9.3 REQUEST FOR DELEGATED AUTHORITY – STATE ROAD FUNDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

**Moved: Karen Wheatland
Seconded: Les Price**

That State Council grants delegated authority to the Selection Committee to undertake the nomination and selection process for the three vacant positions on the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee (SAC).

LOST

MOTION

**Moved: Paige McNeil
Seconded: Helen Sadler**

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

CARRIED

9.4 APPOINTMENT OF POLICY TEAM CHAIRS

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Phil Blight
Seconded: Scott Crosby

That State Council endorse the appointment of the following Policy Team Chairs:

- **Environment: Les Price**
- **Governance: Patrick Hall**
- **Infrastructure: Stephen Strange; and**
- **People and Place: Phillip Blight.**

RESOLUTION 006.1/2026

CARRIED

9.5 FINANCE AND SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES – 18 FEBRUARY 2026

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Chris Antonio
Seconded: Chris Mitchell JP

That State Council endorse the Minutes of the Finance and Services Committee meeting held on 18 February 2026.

RESOLUTION 007.1/2026

CARRIED

9.6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT HOUSE TRUST MINUTES – 18 FEBRUARY 2026

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Chris Antonio
Seconded: Paige McNeil

That State Council endorse the Minutes of the Local Government House Trust Board of Management meeting held on 18 February 2026.

RESOLUTION 008.1/2026

CARRIED

9.7 SELECTION COMMITTEE MINUTES – 24 FEBRUARY 2026

By Chantelle O'Brien, Zones Governance Officer

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Paul Kelly
Seconded: Chris Mitchell JP

That State Council notes the resolution contained in the 24 February 2026 Selection Committee Minutes.

RESOLUTION 009.1/2026

CARRIED

9.8 LGISWA BOARD MINUTES – CONFIDENTIAL

By Sam McLeod, Manager Commercial Services

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Chris Antonio
Seconded: Barry Winmar

That State Council receive the Minutes of the LGISWA Board meetings held on 24 October 2025 and 5 December 2025.

RESOLUTION 010.1/2026

CARRIED

9.9 LGISWA BOARD DIRECTOR SITTING FEES – CONFIDENTIAL

By Sam McLeod, Manager Commercial Services

Chris Antonio and Paul Kelly declared an interest in this item and left the meeting at 5:09pm.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Karen Wheatland

Seconded: Robert Schmidt

That State Council approve the sitting fees for LGISWA Board Directors to be adjusted by +4.1% for the 2026-27 Financial Year, in line with the current reported reference Wage Price Index.

RESOLUTION 011.1/2026

CARRIED

Chris Antonio and Paul Kelly returned to the meeting at 5:15pm.

9.10 USE OF THE ASSOCIATION'S COMMON SEAL

By Nick Sloan, Chief Executive Officer

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Karen Wheatland

Seconded: Chris Mitchell JP

That State Council:

- 1. Notes and endorses the use of the Common Seal being affixed to the Letter of Offer (Variation Letter) with Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited dated 16 February 2026 for the renewal of the LGIS WorkCare Bank Guarantee.**
- 2. Approves and ratifies WALGA entering into that Letter of Offer (Restatement), which increases the applicable Facility Limit to \$90.7 million to satisfy the requirements of WorkCover WA and enable the continuation of the LGIS Workers Compensation arrangements.**

RESOLUTION 012.1/2026

CARRIED

10 POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY TEAM REPORT

Presented by Policy Team Chair, Stephen Strange

NOTED

10.2 PEOPLE AND PLACE POLICY TEAM REPORT

Presented by Policy Team Chair, Phillip Blight

NOTED

10.3 GOVERNANCE POLICY TEAM REPORT

Presented by Policy Team Chair, Patrick Hall

NOTED

10.4 ENVIRONMENT POLICY TEAM REPORT

Presented by Policy Team Chair, Les Price

NOTED

10.5 MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL (MWAC) REPORT

Presented by MWAC Chair, Karen Wheatland

NOTED

RESOLUTION

Moved: Karen Wheatland

Seconded: Chris Mitchell JP

That items 10.1 to 10.5, Policy Team and Committee Reports, be noted.

RESOLUTION 013.1/2026

CARRIED

11 MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

11.1 2026-27 FEDERAL BUDGET SUBMISSION

By Dana Mason, External Affairs Manager

NOTED

11.2 SUBMISSION ON THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INQUIRY INTO THE CURRENT STATE OF THE AUSTRALIAN TYRE INDUSTRY AND CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

By Conor Macgill, Senior Policy Advisor Waste Management

NOTED

11.3 SUBMISSION ON THE STATE HAZARD PLAN HAZMAT ANNEX B SPACE RE-ENTRY DEBRIS (SPRED)

By Amberley Bradley, Policy Advisor Emergency Management

NOTED

11.4 COMMUNITY SPORTING AND RECREATION FACILITIES FUND AND COMMUNITY NIGHT LIGHTS PROGRAM FUNDING PAUSE

By Rebecca Hicks, Policy Advisor Community

NOTED

11.5 FLYING MINUTES ENDORSED BY STATE COUNCIL

NOTED

RESOLUTION

Moved: Barry Winmar

Seconded: Eman Seif JP

That items 11.1 to 11.5, Matters for Noting / Information, be noted.

RESOLUTION 014.1/2026

CARRIED

12 ORGANISATION REPORTS

12.1 KEY ACTIVITY REPORTS

12.1.1 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, ADVOCACY PORTFOLIO

By Rachel Horton, Executive Manager Advocacy

NOTED

12.1.2 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO

By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure

NOTED

12.1.3 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, MEMBER SERVICES PORTFOLIO

By Kirsty Martin, Executive Manager Member Services

NOTED

12.1.4 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, POLICY PORTFOLIO

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy

Terresa Lynes left the meeting at 5:54pm and did not return.

NOTED

12.2 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

NOTED

12.3 CEO'S REPORT

NOTED

RESOLUTION

Moved: Helen Sadler
Seconded: Karen Wheatland

That items 12.1 to 12.3, Organisation Reports, be noted.

RESOLUTION 015.1/2026

CARRIED

13 ADDITIONAL ZONE RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION

Moved: Paige McNeil
Seconded: Stephen Strange

That the additional Zone Resolutions from the February 2026 round of Zone meetings as follows be referred to the appropriate portfolio for consideration and appropriate action.

RESOLUTION 016.1/2026

CARRIED

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of the WALGA State Council will be a Regional Meeting, hosted by the Central Country Zone in the Shire of Pingelly, on Thursday, 7 May.

15 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 6:00pm.