

Western Councillor

ISSUE 133 | SEPTEMBER 2025



WALGA

Influence. Support. Expertise.

The new pride of City of Bunbury

Hands Memorial Oval a
game-changer for community

P16



P7

WALGA's Local
Government Awards

P12

Productivity Scheme trial
success in the City of Vincent

P20

Kalgoorlie-Boulder joins
RoadWise program

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Western Councillor

Issue 133 September 2025

From the Minister	02
From the Shadow Minister	03
From the President	04
LGIS Update	05
Local Government Awards	07
Events Wrap-up	10
Productivity Scheme Trial Success in the City of Vincent	12
WALGA Tax	14
Local Government Elections	14
Showcase in Pixels	15
Hands Oval Redevelopment a Game-changer for Bunbury	16
Bird Waterer a National Success	18
Kalgoorlie-Boulder joins RoadWise Program	20
Local Lens	21
Influencing Capacity Charges on Energy Costs	32
State Council Resolutions	33

Welcome to Issue 133 of *Western Councillor*
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Cover photo

Provided by the City of Bunbury, courtesy of Football Australia.
Photographer: Travis Hayto

Key takeaways from the April – June Quarter

Expertise

Quarterly Economic Briefing now available

WALGA's June 2025 Quarterly Economic Briefing is now available for Members. Containing unique data and insights tailored for Local Governments in WA, this briefing provides an overview of the current economic climate and economic conditions impacting the sector.

WALGA's Renewable Energy Ministerial Forum and release of State Guidelines

As part of WALGA's continued advocacy regarding the requirement for guidelines on Renewable Energy implementation, a Renewable Energy Ministerial Forum was held in June.

State Government Ministers Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA and Hon John Carey MLA addressed Local Governments on their plans for the renewable energy transition and the State Government's priorities. As Minister for Energy and Decarbonisation, Minister Sanderson also engaged in a roundtable discussion with Local Governments, alongside a workshop session conducted by Powering WA that focused on community benefits.

WALGA released its Renewable Energy Community Benefits and Engagement Guide in July to assist Local Governments to navigate renewable energy projects. For more information, go to walga.asn.au

WALGA disappointed as PSHB response transitions to management

WALGA was deeply disappointed with the National Management Group's decision to abandon eradication plans for the Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer (PSHB). A transition to management should not be a transition to Local Governments shouldering the full costs of managing PSHB long term.

WALGA condemns State Government move to legislate against Supreme Court decision

WALGA is deeply concerned by the State Government's intent to legislate changes to rating of miscellaneous licenses on Crown Land, undermining a Supreme Court of Western Australia decision.



From the Minister

Local Government elections are rapidly approaching and as with all levels of Government, it is so important that our local Councils reflect the diverse communities they represent. That is why I have been encouraging people with a range of backgrounds and life experiences to run for their local Council on 18 October.

Diversity on our Councils ensures that our Local Governments truly represent the interests of their communities. Sharing a variety of ideas and experiences around the decision-making table makes our communities stronger and delivers better outcomes for all.

Local Governments are changing, and have shown a strong commitment to driving inclusion, but I would like to see this accelerated. I hope we can all be part of that change and I look forward to seeing a range of new — and continuing — candidates step up for their community this year.

The dedication of those involved in Local Government was on full display at this year's Local Government Awards, which I had the honour of attending in July. I was really inspired to see the commitment shown by those in the sector to serving and shaping their local communities — often over decades. I hope to see this level of passion continue as our new Council candidates discover the positive and lasting impacts they can make.

The Cook Labor Government is also committed to encouraging more people to vote in Local Government elections and get engaged in this important level of democracy.

That's why I am looking at moving to a four-year full Council election cycle, which will not only combat voter fatigue, but will also relieve the financial burden on Councils of having to conduct elections every two years. Having all members elected at the one election also means that their agenda is clear; they train together and plan together to ensure they're on the same page and can avoid the disruption that comes with competing mandates at different elections.

One of the emerging areas many Local Governments are currently considering is their approach towards renewable energy projects. To assist with this, the Cook Labor Government has released our draft guideline on community benefits



The dedication of those involved in Local Government was on full display at this year's Local Government Awards, which I had the honour of attending in July.



for renewable energy projects to ensure that all Western Australians benefit from the energy transition.

Some regional communities are located where strong renewable resources can play a key role in the energy transition, meaning these local communities will be well placed to benefit from the creation of local jobs, supply chain opportunities and broader benefits.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to provide an update on the Government's Local Government reforms.

Feedback received from consultation regarding proposed requirements for CEO KPIs and online registers is currently being considered — thank you to everyone who contributed. The focus will soon turn to reforms related to standardised meeting procedures, communications agreements and council plans as we continue to implement the remainder of the tranche one reforms.

Consultation has just closed on the draft regulations to establish communication agreements between Councils and their administrations. I recognise many Local Governments already have these in place, however, we want to ensure we get the regulations right and reflect the standards we want to implement across the sector.

Further regulations are being prioritised to implement key reforms from the tranche two amendments, including the establishment of the Local Government Inspector; implementing audit, risk and improvement committees; rates and revenue policies and reforming regional subsidiaries.

Development of regulations to implement these important reforms will occur in consultation with the WA Local Government Association and Local Government Professionals WA.

I look forward to continuing to work productively with these organisations to achieve further progress in the sector and even better outcomes for our communities.

Hon Hannah Beazley MLA

Minister for Local Government; Disability Services;
Volunteering; Youth; Gascoyne
Member for Victoria Park



From the Shadow Minister

If the last few months have taught us anything, it's that Local Government plays a vital role in our communities and deserves stronger support to truly thrive and reach its full potential. You know it as well as I do — Local Governments are closest to their communities, listening, responding, and delivering where it matters most.

Local Governments have been in the spotlight in recent months, with several issues continuing to draw public attention. As Shadow Minister, one of my key responsibilities is to listen and advocate to ensure Local Government is empowered and supported. That means being on the ground, hearing directly from councils, and seeking answers from those responsible.

From Albany to Geraldton, to the Goldfields and to the Murchison, I've been engaging with Local Governments to understand their concerns and explore the opportunities ahead. I remain in regular contact with WALGA, Councillors, and sector representatives to ensure I'm well-informed and actively representing the needs of the sector.

Since the last edition, the State Government has released a Community Benefits Guideline for renewable energy projects. However, at this stage, it remains just that — a guideline. The feedback I've received from Local Governments indicates a strong desire for a more robust framework, including the possibility of mandating — at a minimum — formal consultation requirements.

Whether it's renewable energy projects, waste management, planning, or even issues like dogs and cats, it's essential that State Governments work with Local Governments, not around them. Local Government is on the front lines, closest to communities, and must be supported to ensure no one is left behind. Your local knowledge and insight are invaluable, and your voices must be heard accordingly.

Amalgamations and boundary adjustments have come into sharp focus. My public position is clear: that any top-down approach which forces amalgamations that strips away local decision-making, or reduces local representation, will be met with strong resistance. I've requested briefings with the Minister for Local Government to better understand the mechanisms and processes being followed, to ensure community voices will genuinely be heard.



I regularly witness the dedication and hard work of Local Governments across WA, who are committed to delivering essential services and improving their communities.



The State Budget was handed down in June. Pleasingly, many of the priorities outlined in WALGA's *The West at its Best* submission received some funding. However, key areas still fell short—including roads, sport and recreation and culture and the arts.

Reform within the sector has been a long process, and I know many are now looking ahead to the implementation phase — particularly the establishment of the Office of the Local Government Inspector. The Legislative Assembly Estimates in July provided an opportunity to explore the detail further, with specific questions raised about the Inspector's Office. The indication given was that it will be up and running by the end of this financial year.

It is hoped that this Office will be of real benefit to the sector — offering support, guidance, and assistance, particularly during times of uncertainty, transition, or when additional oversight is required.

By now, most Local Governments have adopted their budgets and entered rating season. I regularly hear that the sector is being asked to do more with less, which impacts the ability to deliver on community expectations and priorities. Advocacy for greater financial assistance has long been on the agenda, including the sector's call for a fair percentage share of the GST revenue base. I have urged the State Government to listen to the sector's request for a long-term, formula-based funding model that would provide much-needed sustainability. I will continue to raise this issue to ensure it remains a priority.

Despite the challenges, there are many promising opportunities within the Local Government sector. I regularly witness the dedication and hard work of Local Governments across WA, who are committed to delivering essential services and improving their communities. Their efforts in areas such as infrastructure, community engagement, and environmental management deserve recognition. I commend those Councils that are leading by example and continuously striving to meet the needs and expectations of their residents. With the right support and resources, the sector can build on these strengths and achieve even greater outcomes across the state.

I encourage you to get in touch with my office if you have any questions or concerns. I remain committed to listening and advocating to ensure the voice of Local Government is heard.

Thank you for your continued work and dedication to the sector.

Kirrilee Warr MLA

Shadow Minister for Local Government; Fisheries
Member for Geraldton



From the WALGA President

In June, I joined more than 110 WA delegates from over 40 WA Local Governments in Canberra to represent and support Members and their communities at the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly.

Almost 190 motions were debated across a range of policy areas, including financial sustainability, roads, disaster resilience, health, housing and climate change.

The event provided opportunities for Local Governments across Australia to advocate on behalf of their communities on a national platform.

Congratulations to the City of Stirling, City of Gosnells, City of Wanneroo, Town of Victoria Park and the Shire of Murray, who were all awarded National Awards for Local Government for their work with women in Local Government, addressing violence against women and children, disaster readiness, cohesive communities, productivity through infrastructure, arts and culture, regional growth, and environmental sustainability.

In June, WALGA was disappointed with the National Management Group's decision to abandon eradication plans for the Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer (PSHB). WALGA's position is clear — a transition to management should not be a transition to Local Governments shouldering the full costs of managing PSHB long term.

WALGA continues to advocate that Local Government, and other key stakeholders, must be actively engaged in the development of long-term management arrangements.

In July, WALGA released a Renewable Energy Community Benefits and Engagement Guide to assist Local Governments to navigate large-scale renewable energy projects. The Guide provides Local Governments with a practical framework to understand their role, engage with developers and their communities, and advocate for lasting economic benefits from these projects. It also empowers Local Governments to ensure they act upon the unique needs of their communities. WALGA has welcomed the Draft Guideline on Community Benefits for Renewable Energy released by the State Government in June, while reaffirming the need for Local Governments to be included in decision making.



As somebody who has served my community for more than 20 years, I encourage anyone who wants to make a difference to stand for nomination or ensure they vote in the upcoming Local Government Elections in October.



In mid-July, we brought the WA Local Government sector together for the annual WALGA Local Government Awards, which recognise and celebrate outstanding achievements and lasting contributions made by Elected Members, Local Governments, and Officers to their communities.

In August, we were thrilled to welcome the Hon Jessica Stojkovski MLA, Minister for Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport; Peel to WALGA's Transport and Roads Forum. The State Government announced the first tranche of the Regional Road Safety Program with an allocation over \$39 million to 27 Local Government projects, as part of the State Government's \$125 million commitment, which WALGA advocated for as part of our 2025 State Election Priorities.

With the 2025 Local Government Elections being held in October, we would like to see more community members interested in running for Council.

WALGA, in partnership with the State Government, is running a targeted campaign in the lead-up to the October elections that aims to increase diversity of Council nominations and voter participation.

Elected Members in Local Government have a critical role in representing and delivering for grassroots communities.

As somebody who has served my community for more than 20 years, I encourage anyone who wants to make a difference to stand for nomination or ensure they vote in the upcoming Local Government Elections in October.

Karen Chappel AM JP
WALGA President



LGIS

By James Sheridan
CEO, LGIS

Member-focused, continuing 30 years of innovation

1 July 2025 marked an historic moment for LGIS, it was on the same day 30 years ago that the Scheme launched. A lot has changed over that time, but the core purpose remains — Local Governments working together through a mutual to protect their people, organisations and communities.

LGIS was born from necessity, when the commercial insurance market withdrew cover and costs were escalating. WA Local Governments recognised that they were stronger together and joined to protect themselves making sure that they would always have access to appropriate, affordable and sustainable protection. The reasons that LGIS was formed still exist today and we remain committed to putting members first, as evidenced in our recently endorsed 2025–2028 strategy.

Our history has been one of innovation and evolution anticipating and responding to the sector's emerging risks and growing needs.

Our Strategy – 2025 to 2028

The Board of Directors recently endorsed the three-year Strategic Plan. The plan sets the direction for the coming years in a complex and evolving operating environment and affirms the Scheme's focus on serving the WA Local Government sector. Key to the plan is our refreshed purpose statement, member value proposition and core values.

Our purpose statement

A member-owned mutual supporting WA Local Governments by delivering indemnity protection and risk management.

Our member value proposition

LGIS — WA Local Governments working together:

- We understand Local Government
- We manage risks
- We ensure value
- We're here when members need us

Our core values

- Member collaboration — working with members to proactively manage risks
- Innovation — anticipating the evolving needs of our members
- Reliability — we act with integrity

Members drive Scheme strategy

LGIS' Board of Directors has four member representatives; two officers and two Elected Members. They join three independent Directors and two WALGA representatives; all our Directors bring knowledge, expertise and commitment to the table. The member spokespeople always bring a Local Government, both regional and metropolitan, lens to the Board's deliberation.

Each Director's term is three years, and they may have up to three terms, for a total of nine years. The current Board of Directors includes:

- Chair, Peter Forbes, Independent Director
- Mary Woodford, Independent Director
- Kelly Hick, Independent Director
- Nick Sloan, WALGA CEO
- President Cr Karen Chappel AM JP, WALGA President
- Ben Rose, CEO Shire of Manjimup
- John Pearson, Director Corporate Services, City of Rockingham
- President Chris Antonio, Shire of Northam
- Cr Paul Kelly, Town of Claremont

Innovating for the sector's emerging risks

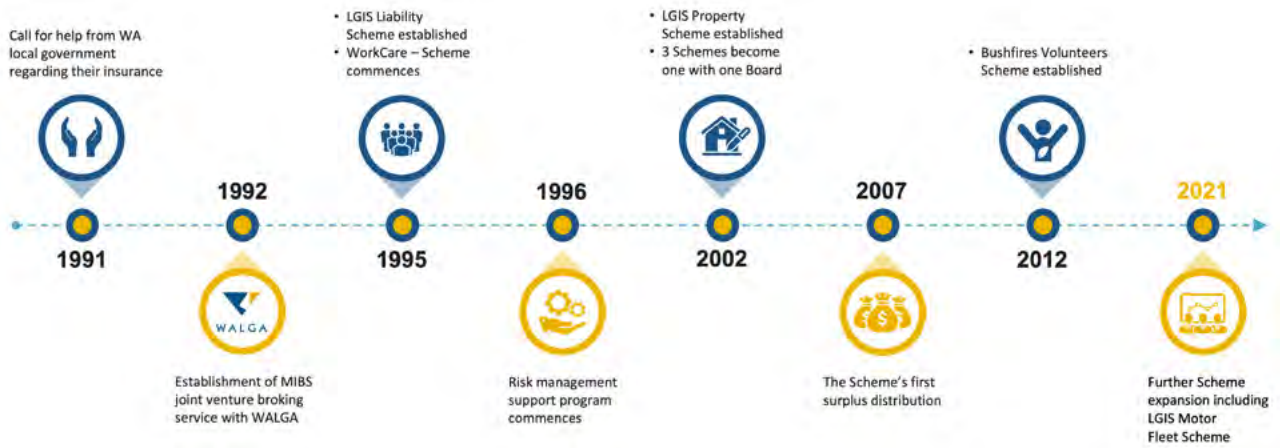
In endorsing the next three-year Strategic Plan and Services Plan the Board's focus was set on positioning the Scheme to be able to respond to the sector's needs. They recognised that the next decade will hold plenty of challenges and opportunities for the sector and that LGIS must be positioned to respond, ensuring ongoing sustainable protect and risk management support.

Connecting with Councils

October elections always bring the potential of change. If new or existing Elected Members are keen to learn more about the LGIS Mutual, our strategy, how we protect Councillors and work with Local Government. We would welcome the opportunity to attend and present on topical issues to your Council meetings.

You're also encouraged to check out the LGIS website, our news page and publications. These can be found at lgisw.com.au and then navigating to Resources 'News and highlights' or 'publications'. The Risk Matters microsite at riskmatterslgis.com.au has more detailed stories from our quarterly magazine.

For more information and queries on your LGIS membership and services talk to your LGIS Account Manager.



Celebrating 30 years of Local governments working together.

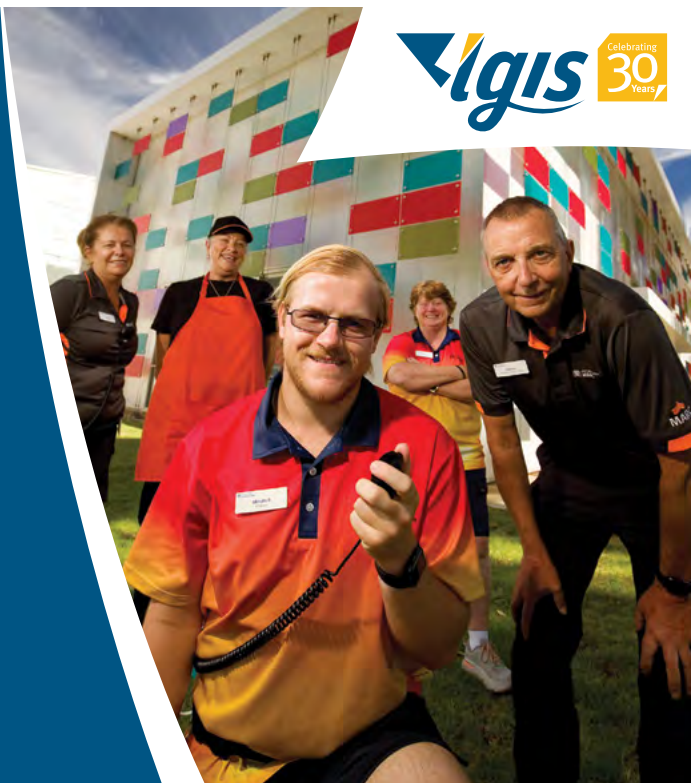
Three decades ago, WA local governments joined together to form LGIS.

We've stood shoulder to shoulder with our members in good times and bad. When disaster strikes our local government specialists are there to help.

We keep innovating providing new cover and risk management services to meet the evolving needs of modern local government.

Through LGIS, our members are backed by the entire local government sector, so they can focus on what they do best - providing the countless services and support which makes a community.

We believe that's worth protecting.



To find out how you can get the most out of your LGIS membership, visit lgiswa.com.au or call 9483 8888.



A celebration of excellence at WALGA's Local Government Awards

More than 40 individuals, Elected Members, Officers and Local Governments were recognised at the WA Local Government Association's 2025 Local Government Awards.

Hosted at the WA Museum Boola Bardip, the Awards honour those who go above and beyond in serving their communities.

The event was supported by the State Government through the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety, along with LGIS.

"Local Governments are highly accountable to the communities they represent, and our 2025 recipients embody the dedication

and hard work undertaken by the sector each and every day to positively contribute to the wellbeing of their communities," President Karen Chappel AM JP said.

Thank you to all who nominated their peers, attended the celebrations, and made the Awards a success.

WALGA Honours Awards Recipients



WALGA Life Membership

President Katrina Crute – Shire of Brookton
Cr Elizabeth (Liz) Guidera – Shire of Katanning



Troy Pickard Young Achievers Award

Cr Christine Hamilton-Prime – City of Joondalup



Shire of Broome Chief Executive Officer Sam Mastrolembo receiving the Eminent Service Award from WALGA President Karen Chappel AM JP.

Eminent Service Award

Mr Paul Anderson – Shire of Perenjori
Mr David Bolt – Shire of Murray
President Cr Gary Cosgrove – Shire of Mingenew
Cr Gary Charles Coumbe – Shire of Nungarin
Cr Joe Ferrante – City of Stirling
Mr Peter Anthony Fitchat – Shire of Dundas
President Cr Desmond Hickey – Shire of Corrigin
Mr Kelton Hincks – Town of Cambridge
Hon Mayor Albert Jacob JP – City of Joondalup
Cr Nige Jones – City of Joondalup

Cr David Lagan – City of Stirling
President Cr Jarrad Wayne Logie – Shire of Williams
Cr Desiree Magdolna Male – Shire of Broome
Mr Sam Mastrolembo – Shire of Broome
Cr Stephanie J Proud JP – City of Stirling
Ms Leeann Reid – City of Melville
Mr Stevan Rodic – City of Stirling
Mr Peter Joseph Varris – City of Vincent
Cr Karen Wheatland – City of Melville

am Huxtable

e of Westonia



Shire of Westonia Cr William (Bill) Huxtable receiving the Merit Award from WALGA Executive Director Member Services Tony Brown.

Merit Award

Michelle Boylan MLC – Shire of Harvey
Mr Chris Brereton – City of Stirling
Cr Jennie Carter – Town of Bassendean
Ms Vicki Davies – Shire of Capel
Ms Krystal Dawe – Shire of Murray
Cr Kerry Lorelle Dayman – Shire of Nungarin
Cr Wendy Dickinson – Shire of Harvey
Ms Samantha Durston – City of Swan
Cr Chris Hatton – City of Stirling
Mr Allen Hicks – Shire of Wagin
Cr William (Bill) Huxtable – Shire of Westonia

Frances Liston – City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Mrs Erin Lochhead – Shire of Capel
Cr Mikayla Love – City of Busselton
Natalie Major – Shire of Williams
Mr Andrew Mattaboni – Shire of Capel
President Paige McNeil – Shire of Mundaring
Jodie Riedmann – Shire of Capel
Ms Anita Scott – Shire of Capel
Mr Jeff Somes – Town of Bassendean
Cr Ange Rogers – Shire of Murray
Cr Serena Williamson – City of Gosnells

WALGA RoadWise Recognised Awards

Shire of Broome
Shire of Capel
Town of Claremont
Shire of Dowerin – WA RoadWise Council Trophy recipient
Shire of Dundas

Shire of Exmouth
City of Greater Geraldton
Shire of Jerramungup
City of Karratha
Shire of Quairading

Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) Awards

The Evelyn Parker Women of Excellence Award
Cr Elizabeth Re – City of Stirling

The Rhonda Hardy Women of Excellence Award
Ms Sara Saberi – Shire of Harvey

WALGA continues to deliver events that reflect key policy areas



Aboriginal Engagement Forum

Now in its eighth year, WALGA's Aboriginal Engagement Forum brought together the Local Government delegates, partners, stakeholders and organisations committed to change and striving to achieve better practice, policy and collaboration with Aboriginal people and the Sector.

In line with this year's theme 'Doyntj-Doyntj Maladjiny - Growing Together', speakers showcased the collaborative power of meaningful partnerships and transforming relationships with Aboriginal people, to deliver positive impacts for all.

The day included a standing-ovation performance from Gina Williams AM and Guy Ghouse, a dedicated Yarning Space and incredible case studies highlighting the transformative work that can be delivered through collaboration.



Renewable Energy Ministerial Forum

As part of WALGA's continued advocacy regarding the requirement for guidelines on Renewable Energy implementation, a Renewable Energy Ministerial Forum was held as the State Government and Local Government work together to navigate the current and future challenges of renewable energy transition.

State Government Ministers Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA and Hon John Carey MLA addressed Local Governments on their plans for the renewable energy transition and the State Government's priorities.

Minister Sanderson also announced the release of the Draft Guideline on Community Benefits for Renewable Energy Projects.



Diploma of Local Government Alumni Sundowner

More than 20 people attended WALGA's inaugural Diploma of Local Government Alumni Sundowner, with the evening providing opportunities for networking, discussion and connection between Local Government peers and leaders.

Shadow Minister for Local Government Kirrilee Warr MP, Member for Geraldton, was the guest speaker and spoke about her time as a Councillor and Shire President at the Shire of Chapman Valley, and her recent ascension to State Parliament.

WALGA's LGA50220 Diploma of Local Government - Elected Member is the highest level of qualification that an Elected Member can obtain through WALGA Training.



Emergency Management Forum

In June, WALGA hosted our Local Government Emergency Management Forum at the City of Stirling.

With opening addresses from WALGA President Karen Chappel AM JP and Hon Paul Papalia as Minister for Emergency Services, the day provided an opportunity to strengthen capabilities, gain insights, and share strategies for emergency management.

Developed by WALGA's Emergency Management team, with input from Local Governments, the Forum focused on addressing the specific needs of WA Local Governments, with keynote presentations from the Bureau of Meteorology, Crisis Shield, and the National Emergency Management Agency.



People and Culture Seminar

More than 140 Local Government People and Culture, Human Resources and Industrial Relations professionals, leaders and CEOs attended WALGA's People and Culture Seminar for 2025.

The year's theme, "Leading People: Compassion, Compliance and Collaboration" delivered a great mix of topics and provided attendees with key takeaways and new ways of thinking for working better across our Local Governments now and into the future.

The People and Culture Seminar is a landmark event in the Local Government calendar, and one that WALGA has been proud to run for more than 15 years.

We look forward to welcoming you back for the next People and Culture Seminar in 2026.



Transport and Roads Forum

In August, WALGA in partnership with Mains Roads WA, hosted the 2025 Transport and Roads Forum at Fraser's State Reception Centre in Kings Park, hosting more than 200 delegates.

The Forum saw an opening address by the Hon Jessica Stojkovski MLA, Minister for Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport; Peel. As part of her opening address, Minister Stojkovski announced the first tranche of the Regional Road Safety Program with more than \$39 million allocation to 27 Local Government projects, as part of the State Government's \$125m commitment to the RRSP.

WALGA President Karen Chappel AM JP outlined the challenges faced by WA Local Governments, who have responsibility for more than 87 per cent of the road network in the State and the critical role Local Government plays in our road networks.

The day brought together experts and leaders across all facets of Local Government, Transport and Roads.



Productivity meets work-life balance in Vincent's innovative workplace scheme

After a successful trial and independent evaluation from Edith Cowan University, the City of Vincent's innovative workplace Productivity Scheme will continue.

It started as a trial in July 2024.

During the trial, staff who opted in were challenged to demonstrate efficiencies and innovation.

Those who were able to achieve this were offered the opportunity of taking up to 10 per cent of their contracted hours as productivity leave.

To ensure the trial was evidence-based, the City of Vincent commissioned an independent evaluation by researchers from Edith Cowan University (ECU). The study involved 50 interviews and a staff survey.

The results were encouraging:

- Staff turnover dropped by 15% to 14.79%
- Employees reported improved morale, job satisfaction, work-life balance and wellbeing
- Many staff cited the trial as a key reason they intended to stay with the organisation — even over better-paid roles elsewhere
- Teams became more focused on reducing inefficiencies, improving systems and collaborating to meet shared goals.

An evaluation report found 96% of surveyed participants supported the continuation of the trial and 77% of employees rated the effectiveness four or five stars.

The ECU researchers recommended that the scheme should continue, and it is now ongoing while continuously being reviewed.

"We are not aware of any public sector agency in Australia that has taken this innovative approach to simultaneously improve productivity, staff retention, employee health and wellbeing. Our team have worked hard and worked smart to make this a permanent feature of a career at the City of Vincent," said City of Vincent CEO David MacLennan.

"Since COVID-19, an ongoing challenge for most organisations remains around retention and attraction of skilled and experienced staff.

"In a competitive job market, the scheme helps us attract and retain the staff we need to deliver vital community services."

Mr MacLennan said staff turnover rate has dropped by 15%, with increased efficiencies across teams and happier staff.

"Retaining staff reduces turnover, training costs and service disruption, which in turn, results in a long-term saving for the organisation and ultimately for ratepayers."

Professor Ben Farr-Wharton from Edith Cowan University said the participants reported increased perceptions of wellbeing, work-life balance, job satisfaction, team cohesion and intention to stay employed at the City of Vincent.



We want to ensure the team at Vincent are happy to be at work so they can continue to deliver the essential services and projects our community expect.

CEO David MacLennan, City of Vincent



"As public sector researchers, we were genuinely impressed by the innovative mindset demonstrated by City of Vincent staff and leadership," he said.

"Government organisations are often under pressure to 'do more with less' — a concept that, mathematically speaking, doesn't add up.

"Research shows this approach typically leads to employees working harder in the short term, but over time, it results in burnout, high turnover, and disengagement.

"Our research supports a shift towards 'doing better with less' — an approach where public sector leaders work collaboratively with staff to identify efficiencies that preserve wellbeing and service quality.

"The City of Vincent exemplifies this more mature and sustainable approach — prioritising both performance and people."

Mr MacLennan assured that Vincent was still open for business, and through effective rostering, service levels and turnaround times were not impacted.

All staff are still paid for their contracted hours and are expected to be on-call during their productivity time off, if required.

"We continue to answer phone calls, and our fantastic Customer Relations team are still available for in-person support," he said.

"Development Applications are still being assessed in a timely manner. Rangers, rubbish collectors and the parks team continue to do their front-line jobs effectively.

"We want to ensure the team at Vincent are happy to be at work so they can continue to deliver the essential services and projects our community expect."

To read the full, evidence-based evaluation of the Productivity Trial, visit the City of Vincent website.

WALGA Tax Service celebrates 25 years

On 1 July 2000, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) launched in Australia. To help Local Governments as they navigated this new system, WALGA created a dedicated tax resource.

Partnering with Moore Australia since 2001, and with approximately 100 Local Governments subscribed, the WALGA Tax Service has been the most trusted source of Local Government tax advice in WA for the past 25 years.

WALGA's Tax Service provides Local Governments with specialised taxation advisory and information services across all indirect revenue types.

Taxation support and advisory service is an essential resource for Western Australian Local Governments, offering up-to-date, relevant and easy to understand risk information affecting the Local Government sector.

Subscribers to the service have access to support on a wide range of tax issues, including Goods and Services Tax (GST), Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT), Fuel Tax Credits, and PAYG withholding.

This technical support ensures Local Governments are aware of changes to tax law and are able to resolve tax issues efficiently and effectively.

Subscribers also have access to the full range of fee for service offerings from Moore Australia outside the scope of the service.

David Trevaskis, Executive Director, Corporate at the City of Swan, said: "We have found the WALGA Tax Subscription Service to be very helpful in clarifying all GST and FBT queries we have sent through."

"We also found them extremely helpful with the recent Local Government Act amendments relating to superannuation on Council Members, which was beneficial in our communication with our Council Members."

2025 Local Government Elections

WALGA partners with State Government to boost diversity in Council elections and increase voter participation.

In August, WALGA called on Western Australians to put their hand up and consider nominating as an Elected Member in the upcoming 2025 Local Government Elections.

A new, targeted campaign developed in partnership with WALGA, the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety, and the WA Electoral Commission, was recently launched and will continue to run until the elections in October.

The 'You are the Right Material' campaign has been specifically tailored to focus on increasing diversity of nominations to council and voter participation.

Nominations opened on Thursday 28 August, and closed at 4pm on Thursday 4 September 2025.

WALGA President Karen Chappel AM JP said being elected to represent your community on Council was a privilege.

"As somebody who has served my community for more than 20 years, I encourage anyone who wants to make a difference to stand for nomination or ensure they vote in the upcoming Local Government Elections," President Chappel said.

"Elected Members in Local Government have a critical role in representing and delivering for grassroots communities right across Western Australia.

"With Local Government Elections being held in October, we would like to see more community members, from all walks of life, interested in running for Council.

"If you're considering standing for Council, I encourage you to take that step, it's a chance to serve, to lead, and to make a real difference.

"Your voice matters, and our community needs people who care deeply and are willing to contribute."



Showcase in Pixels returns for 2025

WALGA's annual art exhibition Showcase in Pixels returns for 2025 to celebrate creativity and artwork across Western Australia

WALGA is calling on all budding and professional artists, students, community groups and designers to enter.

WALGA's long-standing community art competition 'Showcase in Pixels' is back for 2025 and now open for submissions until 26 September.

Now in its sixth year, Showcase in Pixels launched back in 2019, but its predecessor, Banners on the Terrace, was one of the most highly anticipated and largest community arts projects in the State. Each year, Banners in the Terrace competition would run in conjunction with WALGA's Local Government Convention. Artists entered their works as banners which were then exhibited along St Georges and Adelaide Terraces, sharing the joy of these amazing creations with thousands of pedestrians every day during convention week.

Banners in the Terrace eventually evolved into Showcase in Pixels, allowing the competition to diversify and grow. With entrants invited from all 139 Local Governments, the revamped competition offered new categories, extended age groups, new themes, and distinguished judging panels.

WALGA President Karen Chappel AM JP said Showcase in Pixels provided the opportunity to highlight and uncover new or emerging artists across Western Australia.

"Last year it was great to receive a large number of entries from all over the State, with artists representing their Local Government and showcasing the incredible people, groups, and organisations that make our communities such great places to live.

"WALGA is proud to have a long history of supporting arts and culture within the community, as Local Governments act as providers and operators of a variety of cultural facilities.

"I look forward to seeing what the 2025 entrants will bring to this year's Showcase in Pixels."

A major drawcard for Showcase in Pixels winners is having their artwork displayed on the digital tower in the heart of Yagan Square, in Perth CBD. This will happen again in November to display the 2025 winners.

So, if you are a budding or professional artist looking for a new challenge, a member of an art group seeking a new endeavour, or an art teacher looking for a rewarding project your students, then you need to check out WALGA's Showcase in Pixels.

Keep an eye on the WALGA socials, website and newsletter as winners will be unveiled in November.

Best of luck to all entrants. To find out more about WALGA's Showcase in Pixels Community Art Competition, go to walga.asn.au/pixels25

Pictured above: Artist Kael Davies from the City of Gosnells
Pictured below: Artist Emma Eva from the Shire of Pingelly





Image: Courtesy Football Australia. Photographer Jack Foley

The new pride of City of Bunbury

Hands Memorial Oval a game-changer for community

Over 10,000 local, national, and international patrons experienced football at its finest on Bunbury's Hands Memorial Oval on Saturday 5 July with a tightly contested match between the CommBank Matildas and Panama Women's National Team.

The clash occurred only weeks after the historic AFL game between North Melbourne and West Coast Eagles – drawing a record crowd of 12,715 at the newly redeveloped precinct.

The redevelopment, which was completed in 2024, elevated the facility's status as the premier Australian Football League destination in regional Western Australia, with the centrepiece of the project a new two-storey stadium with a seating capacity of 750 spectators.

With a focus on sustainability, versatility and enhanced spectator experience, the redevelopment included a new entrance, ticket boxes, parking, road upgrades, change rooms, function space and media facilities. The facility now meets AFL Category 4 standards while ensuring inclusivity for people of all abilities.

Facilitated by the City of Bunbury, the addition of six temporary grandstands located around the oval enabled spectators to be very much a part of the game day action.

Bunbury Mayor Jaysen Miguel said the redevelopment of Hands Oval has been a game-changer for Bunbury.

"Hosting major events like the AFL and Matildas games so soon after completion shows just how valuable this investment is, not only in terms of community pride and participation, but also in the economic and social benefits it brings to our city," said Mayor Miguel.

"These events bring visitors, boost local business, and create unforgettable experiences for our residents."



Image: Courtesy Football Australia. Photographer Travis Hayto



Hands Oval is now a venue that reflects the ambition and pride of Bunbury, and we're only just beginning to see what's possible. Mayor Jaysen Miguel, City of Bunbury



"We're also seeing Bunbury and Hands Oval broadcast on screens across the country and around the world.

"Hands Oval is now a venue that reflects the ambition and pride of Bunbury, and we're only just beginning to see what's possible.

"It's a proud moment for Bunbury and a powerful opportunity to showcase everything we have to offer."

For the AFL pre-season and in-season matches, as well as the Matildas fixture, City of Bunbury staff across Infrastructure and Corporate and Community teams pulled out all stops to deliver each event to the highest possible standard.

This included delivery of event logistics, waste services, temporary infrastructure, marketing, and communications. The Events and Place Activations and Marketing teams worked closely with North Melbourne Football Club and Tourism WA to showcase Australia's South West to patrons including the

presence of a WA Culinary Experience marquee featuring local wines and produce.

Officially known as JE Hands Memorial Park, the ground has been the primary venue for Australian football and cricket in the region, and over the years it has hosted soccer and rugby union matches, as well as state cricket.

Serving as the home of the South Bunbury Football Club and Southwest Football League, it has hosted five WAFL matches since 1984.

The project was funded through \$6.8 million from the City, \$8 million from Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' WA Recovery Plan funding, \$4.4 million through the Federal Government's Building Better Regions Fund, \$200,000 from the West Australian Football Commission, \$150,000 from South West Football League and \$5.7 million for additional AFL fixtures from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.



Images: by Georgina Wilson

Bird Waterer a National Success

From the outside, some might assume the environmental focus of Local Government boils down to little more than planting a few extra trees.

If the Town of Victoria Park's over-subscribed community planting days this winter were any indication, there's plenty of enthusiasm for that kind of mission — but as the small inner-city LG's recent national award win for one of its pet projects has shown, there's much more to its environmental approach.

Now installed at more than 130 locations across Western Australia, many had already heard of the Town's innovative bird waterers when they appeared amongst the nominations for the 2025 National Awards for Local Government, ultimately winning the popularly voted Environmental Sustainability category.

Designed by Town staff in response to community concerns about dwindling fresh water sources for black cockatoos, the bird waterer — commonly referred to as the Cockitrough® — elevates a series of self-filling and cleaning water troughs away from roads and predators and has become a common sight in parks around the metro area and beyond.

Town of Victoria Park Mayor Karen Vernon said the Cockitrough® had captured the imaginations of the community ever since the first prototype was installed at the local Jirdarup Bushland in 2018.

"The Cockitrough® has proved a popular and cost-effective solution for hydrating wildlife, with more than 130 units now purchased and installed across WA by Local Governments, schools, conservation groups and environmentally conscious individuals.

"The national award, which is voted by the public, is even more evidence of the popularity of the Cockitrough®, and we as a Town are hugely proud of the impact it continues to have for our local birds and, in some cases, marsupials."

Interestingly, Jirdarup Bushland's importance to the Town's environmental work is not limited to being the first home of the Cockitrough®. Vic Park's annual planting program is also heavily tied to the area, propagating native endemic seed from the site for planting throughout the surrounding suburbs. This in turn has led to the ongoing creation of a 'wildlife corridor' of hyper-native plantings via community planting days, extending food sources and habitat for wildlife from the bushland south past Curtin University.

Meanwhile, whilst originally designed for the state's endangered black cockatoos, the Cockitrough® has been recorded serving up a drink to all manner of birdlife, from honeyeaters, ravens, willy wagtails and magpies, to galahs and, of course, the humble Ibis.

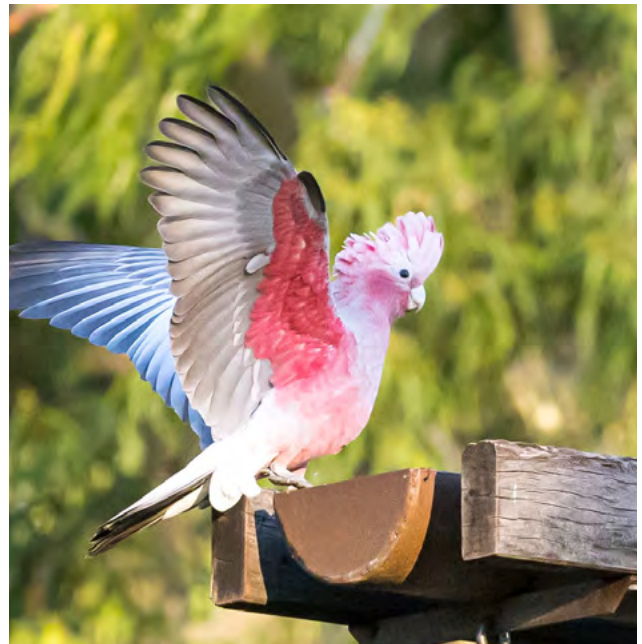
The Cockitrough® is available for Local Governments, conservation groups, universities, schools, and businesses looking to improve urban bird habitats.

With the invention showing up all over the State in the City of Belmont, Shire of Murray, Shire of Waroona, City of Canning and Shire of Mundaring, just to name a few, be sure to keep an eye out as these innovative bird waterers make their way to a suburb near you.



...we as a Town are hugely proud of the impact it continues to have for our local birds and, in some cases, marsupials.

Mayor Karen Vernon,
Town of Victoria Park





Kalgoorlie-Boulder becomes latest Local Government to join WALGA's RoadWise Program

WALGA's RoadWise Program continues to support WA Local Governments to make local roads safer.

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder has joined the growing network of Local Governments working to make roads safer, officially becoming a registered WALGA RoadWise Council.

Representatives from WALGA's RoadWise Program presented Mayor Wilson with the City's RoadWise Council plaque, as formal recognition of the City's renewed commitment to road safety for all road users.

Joining the RoadWise network provides the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder with support to identify priority projects, review local road safety data, update policies and processes, and further focus efforts and investment where they can make the most difference.

City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder Mayor Glenn Wilson acknowledged the community's role in driving this initiative forward, particularly the advocacy of local resident Daniel Campo, whose son Nick tragically died in a car crash last year.

"Daniel's determination is a powerful reminder of why this work matters. Road safety isn't just a statistic – it's deeply personal. Every decision we make about our roads has the potential to prevent another family from experiencing that kind of loss," Mayor Wilson said.

"Here, between Kalgoorlie and Northam, there's only one billboard reminding drivers to stay safe. There's a lot we can do to advocate for better awareness and safer environments on our regional roads, especially given the long distances people travel out here.

"Importantly, being a part of the Program also strengthens our ability to advocate for safer roads and work with other Local Governments and agencies on practical, community-focused initiatives," he said.

WALGA President Karen Chappel AM JP commended the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder for formalising its commitment to road safety through RoadWise.

"As road managers, Local Governments are a critical stakeholder and key partner in road safety," President Chappel said.

"RoadWise aims to build an informed and committed sector with safe system principles integrated into the way the local road network is managed, ultimately making an effective contribution to the achievement of National and State road safety objectives and targets."

Across Western Australia, 66 Local Governments have committed to the program.

Local Lens





City of Albany

The City of Albany was one of only two locations in Western Australia to host the National Gallery's touring exhibition Skywhales: Across Australia, featuring Patricia Piccinini's iconic Skywhale and Skywhalepapa. Due to unfavourable weather, the event was moved to night — marking the first-ever evening glow-up for the Skywhales. More than 5,000 people gathered at Retravision Stadium to witness the breathtaking tethered display as the giant sculptures lit up against the beautiful evening sunset and night sky. This National Gallery Touring Event was proudly supported by the Australian Government through Visions of Australia and the National Collecting Institutions Touring Outreach Program.

Image Credit: Jenny Feast on behalf of the City of Albany
Provided by Carolyn Martin, Communications Coordinator – City of Albany



Shire of Ashburton

Following the November 2024 storm, the Tom Price maintenance crew did their best to preserve the iconic Ficus Tree at Doug Talbot Park, estimated to be 50–60 years old. After proving irreparable, the Shire of Ashburton instead turned to utilising the stump as a reminder of the enduring resilience and community spirit of our town, engaging Neil Turner to reconstruct it into a stunning public art piece. Now named "Spirit of the Pilbara", we're extremely pleased to showcase the finished result completed in just 10 days, representing new growth, our iconic landscape, and of course, the ever-present Pilbara sun.

Pictured: 'Spirit of the Pilbara', Tom Price
Provided by: Gemma Taylor, Digital Communications Officer – Shire of Ashburton



City of Armadale

The City of Armadale hosted the Dogs' Day Out on 4 May 2025, an annual event that has fast become a favourite for both the City, residents and their beloved canine companions.

The day featured competitions for best trick and best dressed dog, as well as a range of entertainment for the whole family.

The City's Ranger team were in attendance, as well as a variety of animal rescue groups, and other dog-related services. The event serves as both a fun day out and an opportunity to encourage responsible dog ownership.

Pictured: Mayor Ruth Butterfield and Gorilla the English Mastiff from 'The Treat Truck'
Provided by Nic Errol, Senior Media Advisor – City of Armadale.
Photo by Steve Parry.



City of Bayswater

A colourful new mural by Whadjuk, Ballardong, Arrernte artist Jade Dolman now brightens the exterior wall of Galleria Shopping Centre in Morley.

Titled 'All That We Need Was Found Here', the mural celebrates the significance of Country and features local flora and fauna, with warm colours representing land (Boodjar) and cool colours reflecting water (Kep).

Jade led workshops with students from Hampton Senior High School, sharing cultural knowledge and guiding them through the design process. The City of Bayswater partially funded the project, in partnership with Vicinity Centres and Apparatus, to help activate the Morley town centre through public art.

Pictured: City of Bayswater Councillor Sally Palmer, Councillor Nat Latter, Jade Dolman, Hampton Senior High School students and City of Bayswater Mayor Filomena Piffaretti.

Provided by the City of Bayswater



City of Belmont

The City of Belmont's Makuru Community Markets welcomed over 50 stallholders this year, including a record 16 local small businesses.

It's a wonderful way for the community to support local makers and celebrate the season together.

Pictured: City of Belmont locals Loretta and Sue at their Aussie Art stall.

Provided by the City of Belmont



Shire of Broome

The Shire of Broome marked a major milestone with the official opening of Stage 1 of the Walmanyjun Cable Beach Foreshore Redevelopment and upgraded Surf Life Saving Club. Hundreds of locals and visitors turned up to enjoy a community celebration featuring live entertainment, food trucks, and a showcase of the new public facilities. Upgrades include improved beach access stairs and ramp, restored sand dunes, a revitalised youth space and a safer, pedestrian-friendly entrance to the Surf Club.

Pictured: Cr Ellen Smith, Cr Desiree Male, Shire CEO Sam Mastrolembo, Aunty Di Appleby, Rebecca Dalton, WA Premier Roger Cook, Cr Peter Taylor, Hon. Divina D'Anna MLA, James Watt, Lorna Pritchard, Scott Kneebone, Hon. Stephen Dawson MLA, Jeremy Hall, Cr Philip Matsumoto and Richard Elderfield. Photo by Queen Tide Creative.

Provided by Katya Minns, Marketing & Communications Officer – Shire of Broome



City of Busselton

The City of Busselton has completed three major coastal protection projects across Vasse, West Busselton, and East Busselton. This included dune stabilisation works covered with biodegradable matting and new native plants, refurbished coastal pathways, a stormwater outlet extension, and the planting of over 39,000 native shrubs and groundcovers. These vital upgrades are part of the City's long-term strategy to combat coastal erosion and enhance shoreline resilience. The projects were partially funded through the Australian Government's Preparing Australian Communities Program, delivered by the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources.

Provided by Deborah Holden, Communications and Marketing Officer – City of Busselton



Town of Cambridge

Cambridge Street Festival returned on 15 March 2025, drawing close to 12,000 people throughout the afternoon and evening. Held as part of the Town of Cambridge's 30th anniversary celebrations, the event surpassed the 2019 attendance and reaffirmed its place as a key community highlight. Visitors enjoyed a wide range of entertainment and family-friendly activities.

"Street festivals, and the range of community events organised by the Town, play an important role in strengthening community connections, support local businesses, and enhance the vibrancy of our public spaces," Mayor Gary Mack said.

Provided by Matt Lau, Senior Media & Communications Officer – Town of Cambridge. Photo by Stephen Heath Photography.



Shire of Capel

The Shire of Capel has honoured Mr Chris Scott, who retired after 55 years of dedicated service, including 24 years as Chief Bush Fire Control Officer. At a special ceremony, he was awarded the prestigious title of Honorary Freeman, joining just eleven others to have received this honour in the Shire's history. Mr Scott has led major fire responses, contributed to state and national emergency efforts, and shaped fire management policy. Recognised with the Australian Fire Service Medal in 2024, he remains committed to frontline firefighting. The Shire extends its sincerest thanks to Mr Scott for his extraordinary service.

Pictured: Shire President Doug Kitchen, with Freeman Chris Scott, Freeman Murray Scott, Freeman Margaret Smith and Freeman Michael Tichbon.

Provided by Danielle Paull, Communications Coordinator – Shire of Capel



City of Canning

The City of Canning's vibrant cultural celebration, Global Streets, was recently held at Hillview Park and the Hillview Intercultural Centre in Bentley. Showcasing Canning's rich cultural diversity, the event featured live stage performances, as well as a kids zone complete with henna, craft activities, basketball and games. As the most culturally diverse Local Government in the Perth Metro area, with 50.9% of residents born overseas, this festival truly celebrated the residents of Canning.

Pictured: Mirren Tull, Event Officer and Cynthia Williamson, Coordinator City Events.

Provided by Bronwyn Keys, Marketing & Communications Advisor – City of Canning



City of Cockburn

The City of Cockburn was honoured to welcome His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM Governor of Western Australia to Memorial Hall in Hamilton Hill on 21 March, to mark the 100th anniversary of the laying of foundation stones at the iconic community facility.

On 21 March 1925, two foundation stones were laid on a large plot of land on the corner of Rockingham Road and Carrington Street, with official duties carried out by the Governor of Western Australia of the day, Sir William Campion, and local fundraising stalwart Maud Mary Winfield.

Pictured: City of Cockburn Mayor Logan Howlett and His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM Governor of Western Australia stand on the threshold of century-old Memorial Hall in Hamilton Hill.

Provided by Michelle Nugent, Media and Communications Officer – City of Cockburn



Shire of Coolgardie

Four proud Volunteer Ambulance Officers had the honour of holding the iconic Lexus Melbourne Cup during its special visit to Kambalda. For the first time, the Cup was crafted from WA gold – sourced from the Beta Hunt mine, operated by Westgold Resources. Westgold brought the Cup to town to celebrate the strong connection between the source of the gold and the Kambalda community. A golden moment for all!

Image Credit: ABC Refinery

Pictured: Tracey Rathbone, Shane Austin, Tammee Keast, Renee Willis
Provided by Shire of Coolgardie Communications Officer, Joy Charlton



Shire of Derby/West Kimberley

Shire of Derby/West Kimberley's sixth annual Jump4It Junior Basketball Carnival was a slam dunk this year, with nearly 700 people attending a high-energy weekend of sport and community spirit. With 24 teams, over 260 players and 60 games across two days, the carnival saw more than 2,000 minutes of action. Teams travelled from across the Kimberley, Pilbara, Perth and beyond to compete and connect. While the competition was fierce, it was the sportsmanship, energy and strong sense of community that truly stood out. The carnival showcased the vital role sport plays in strengthening connections, building confidence and supporting wellbeing in regional communities.

Provided by Maria O'Connell, Media and Communications Officer – Shire of Derby/West Kimberley



Shire of Dardanup

The Shire of Dardanup's new mural, titled Wanju (meaning "welcome" in Noongar), was created by local artist Grace Janowicz, winner of the RCR NAIDOC Week Art Competition. This vibrant work, developed through a week-long painting session, celebrates community, culture, and connection to country, reflecting life in the Shire of Dardanup with bold colours and traditional symbols. Collaboratively commissioned by RCR Mining Technologies, CheckMate Art Gallery, and the Shire, it transforms the Shire's Administration building and highlights the region's inclusivity and spirit. Grace, typically working in darker styles, embraced this project as a bright, positive challenge.

Pictured: Shire of Dardanup President Cr Tyrrell Gardiner, RCR Mining Technologies Manager Advanced Technologies Neville Kelly, CheckMate Bunbury Resident Artist and Art Teacher Annie Labriola, and artist Grace Janowicz.

Provided by Tahniah Creedon, Communications Officer and Breeanna Batrick, Marketing and Promotions Officer – Shire of Dardanup



Shire of Exmouth

Thousands of people turned out for the first Ningaloo Sky Festival in June; an unforgettable community event set under the stars and sky-scapes of Ningaloo, Exmouth. The Shire of Exmouth curated a captivating program including an unforgettable fusion of music, cultural storytelling, and exquisite culinary delights against the breathtaking backdrop of Exmouth's magnificent skies and the World Heritage-listed Ningaloo Coast.

Exceeding expectations, the festival brought families, friends and visitors together in a vibrant, community-focused atmosphere. The Ningaloo Sky Festival will return in 2027 as a biennial event, promising even more wonder, fabulous entertainment, and exciting events to celebrate everything that makes our region and community so special.

Pictured: Ningaloo Sky Festival community market day at Federation Park, Exmouth

Provided by Rosa Harper, Communications and Marketing Officer – Shire of Exmouth



Shire of Gingin

In April, the Shire of Gingin hosted its inaugural YMe? YNot? Connecting Youth Expo! The event brought together inspiring young entrepreneurs from the Shire of Gingin's YMe? YNot? Youth Micro Enterprise project. Also in attendance were representatives from the employment and education sectors, service providers, community groups, emergency and defence services, entertainment, food trucks, craft stalls and more! The event was enjoyed by approximately 300 attendees (mostly young people) who made the most of it using their Youth Expo Passport to win big prizes! The Shire of Gingin looks forward to hosting it again next year!

Provided by Caitlin Skewes, Administrative Support Officer – Shire of Gingin



City of Joondalup

Harry Young won the major prize for Most Outstanding Artwork at the City of Joondalup's 2025 Community Art Exhibition for his work, entitled 'Forbidden Skate Ramp'.

Young, pictured with Mayor Albert Jacob, joins an esteemed list of past recipients of the honour.

The annual exhibition, held at Lakeside Joondalup Shopping City, featured over 150 artworks, which were all produced by City of Joondalup residents or members of local arts groups.

Provided by Daniel Davini, Media Advisor – City of Joondalup



City of Greater Geraldton

Seafood, entertainment and community spirit were on full display as Shore Leave Festival returned to the Midwest for 2025. Celebrating its fifth year, the Festival was magnificently delivered by locals for the first time with Tourism Geraldton Mid West leading the event along with financial support from the City of Greater Geraldton, Mid West Ports Authority and the State Government.

Provided by Han Jie Davis, Communications Officer – Tourism – City of Greater Geraldton



City of Kwinana

The City of Kwinana is proud to be one of the first Local Governments in Australia to permanently implement tactile bin labelling across all household wheeled bins.

This inclusive feature ensures all residents — including those who are blind, vision impaired, or colour blind — can confidently identify and sort their waste.

The tactile system aligns with the relevant Australian Standard AS4123.7-2006, which specifies distinct shapes for each waste stream with a circle for Garden Organics, square for the general waste bin, and a triangle for the recycling bin.

The tactile bin lids were introduced with the roll out of the City's new three-bin system in June, with the addition of the Garden Organics (GO) bin.

Provided by Jaime Shurmer, Communications Officer – City of Kwinana



City of Mandurah

The Mandurah Aquatic and Recreation Centre (MARC) was recently recognised by the Water Corporation as this year's Platinum Waterwise Aquatic Centre, the highest honour in the State's Waterwise program.

MARC was acknowledged for its outstanding commitment to water sustainability and conservation, celebrating the centre's long-term dedication to reducing water use through a range of smart, efficient and forward-thinking initiatives.

This includes push-button showers, waterless urinals, staff-led water audits, and a smart water-use monitoring system which automatically detects spikes in water usage, such as those that could be caused by leaks.

Already recognised as a Gold Waterwise Centre, MARC's elevation to Platinum status reflects the City of Mandurah's commitment to using water sustainably and being a leader in environmental sustainability.

Pictured: MARC staff Amy Giltrow, Adrian Timms and Debbie Gillard.
Provided by Holly Sutton, Communications and Public Relations Advisor,
Strategic Communications – City of Mandurah



City of Melville

City of Melville Mayor Katy Mair had loads of helpers when she took the new children's activity book 'Murals and More: A Canning Bridge Adventure' for a spin recently.

The book shows off the mural artwork nearby for children to colour and aims to spark creativity and inspire visits to the area.

Mayor Mair said it's a great way to support local business and the vibrant public art that makes Canning Bridge such an engaging destination.

Pictured: Fynn, Harrison, Sierra, Emelia, Alexa, Eloise, Mayor Katy Mair, Elisa, Oliver and Arden with one of the gorgeous murals featured in the book.
Provided by Kerry Faulkner, Communications Officer – City of Melville



Shire of Merredin

On 15 April 2025, community members, business owners, and special guests gathered to celebrate the Grand Opening of Merredin's revitalised Central Business District. The \$10.5 million redevelopment transformed key precincts, including the Town Centre, Pioneer Park and Apex Park | Danjoo Waabininy Boodja, into vibrant, accessible community spaces. This regionally important project included new recreation areas, modern amenities, improved pedestrian access, and infrastructure upgrades. This project was made possible through support from the Building Better Regions Fund and Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, as well as Lotterywest, the Public Transport Authority of Western Australia, and the Wheatbelt Development Commission.

Pictured: Shire President Donna Crook, Councillor Hayley Billing, Senator for Western Australia Mr Varun Ghosh, Deputy Shire President Renee Manning, Councillor Lisa O'Neill, and former Councillor Ross Billing.
Provided by Kohdee Swinwood and Michaela Ironwood, Shire of Merredin



Shire of Murray

The Shire of Murray has diverted more than 37 tonnes of e-waste from landfill in the past 18 months, including 1,831 flat-screen televisions.

The Shire began separating and recycling e-waste at the Murray transfer stations from 1 September 2023. In 2024, the Shire also upgraded the Corio Road Transfer Station with a new moving floor and compactor, which has increased convenience, cost-efficiency and safety at the station.

This project was a major priority for the Shire of Murray with a \$1.5 million investment from Council.

Pictured: Councillor Stewart Carter, President Douglas McLarty, Councillor Ange Rogers, Councillor Stuart Kirkham and Councillor Geoff Black.

Provided by Kaylin Heyns, Digital Communications and Marketing Officer – Shire of Murray



Shire of Northam

Northam lit up over the June long weekend with Elevate Festival, Northam Light Balloon Fiesta, and a very special visit from the incredible Skywhales as part of the National Gallery of Australia's Skywhales Across Australia Tour.

Elevate Festival, organised by the Shire of Northam, welcomed thousands to Henry Street Oval; the highlight of the evening being the balloon glow, where balloons were tethered and glowed in sync with live music. The Baby Animals headlined, ending the night with some high-energy rock.

It was a weekend of wonder, where art met altitude and the community came together under glowing skies.

Provided by Victoria Williams, Manager Engagement and Communications – Shire of Northam



Shire of Plantagenet

The Reading for Generations project, initiated by the Shire of Plantagenet in 2022, culminated in the launch of four children's storybooks in April. The books weave local Noongar history with childhood folk stories from Afghanistan and were illustrated by Mount Barker Community College primary school students.

Requests for the storybooks have been received from the State Library of Western Australia, National Library of Australia and many public libraries. Anyone can source their own copy via the Shire's website. The State Library of WA's Better Beginnings program co-funded the Reading for Generations project with the Shire.

Pictured: Story book authors, illustrators and project partners at the Reading for Generations book launch at Mount Barker Community College.

Provided by Lisa Newbury, Communications Coordinator – Shire of Plantagenet and photo by Rhianna Reynolds



City of Rockingham

The Rockingham Jobs Fair has once again proven to be a major success, attracting hundreds of local jobseekers and students from across the region. As the largest jobs fair in the South-West metropolitan Region, the event is one of the City's key economic development initiatives, in partnership with the Rockingham Kwinana Chamber of Commerce, playing a vital role in connecting local talent with businesses. As Rockingham continues to experience strong growth in defence and defence-related industries, advanced manufacturing, construction and tourism, the Jobs Fair offers a valuable gateway to explore the wide range of career opportunities emerging across the city.

Pictured: The Rockingham Jobs Fair at the Gary Holland Community Centre.

Provided by Sharnae Hope, Media and Communications Officer – City of Rockingham



Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale

The Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale celebrated the commencement of works at the Keirnan Park Recreation Precinct with a groundbreaking ceremony at the 63-hectare landmark. Shire President Rob Coales, CEO Paul Martin and Elected Members were honoured to be joined by Sport and Recreation Minister Rita Saffioti and Member for Darling Range Hugh Jones.

Stage one of the project will deliver two sporting ovals, cricket nets, a 1500-square-metre pavilion, and 213 parking bays. The \$35.2 million project is supported by \$22 million in State Government funding, along with \$10.6 million in Developer Contributions and \$2.6 million from the Shire.

Pictured: Shire President Rob Coales, Member for Darling Range Hugh Jones, CivCon Civil Construction Manager Luke Yaney.

Provided by Kylie Pitman, Manager Communications and Customer Engagement, Jessica Cardoso, Communications Officer and Issy Rule, Strategic Communications & Advocacy Advisor – Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale



City of Stirling

Western Australia's first 24/7 outdoor library lockers have landed at the City of Stirling. Stirling Libraries – Hamersley Book Nook lets members reserve items online and collect them any time from 39 secure lockers using just their library card. With a quick scan to borrow and a simple return chute, it's a fuss-free way to access books and more. This clever, tech-driven service brings the traditional library into the digital age and adds even more value to a growing community hub focused on connection and convenience.

Pictured: Hamersley Ward Councillor Chris Hatton, Mayor Mark Irwin, Jessica Stojkovski MLA and Member for Kingsley, Hamersley Ward Councillor Chris Hatton, Osborne Ward Councillor Teresa Olow and Director Community Development Michael Quirk

Provided by Mikaela Henschel, Communications Officer and photo by Justina Vo Social Media Officer – City of Stirling

City of South Perth



The new Manning Bike Track in Karawara has been a standout hit with the South Perth community since opening earlier this year.

Designed by Three Chillies Design and built for riders of all ages and abilities, it features pump and jump tracks for bikes, scooters, skateboards, and wheelchairs.

Nestled in George Burnett Park, this precinct is now a buzzing community hub complemented by a new café and the Canning Bridge to Curtin University Bike Link.

The track was backed by major grants from the Australian Government and Lotterywest, and enhanced with landscaped gardens, seating and shade, resulting in a destination for fun, fitness, and connection.

Provided by Raquel de Brio, Communications Officer – City of South Perth



It was the Rangers' turn to learn some new tricks at the City of South Perth's Animal Care Facility, with a visit from City of Joondalup Rangers. The visit formed part of their professional development through Central Regional TAFE, focusing on best-practice dog and cat handling techniques. The City of South Perth's facility is shared with several other Local Governments and regularly serves as a training ground to promote responsible pet management.

Provided by City of South Perth Communications Officer



City of Subiaco

The Subi Night Market received a Special Commendation in the Best Community Activation or Engagement Category at the Property Council of WA's annual awards night in June.

The Market's 2024-25 season was held over 31 weeks in Subiaco's Market Square Park, and welcomed 114,000 people to Subiaco – a 58 per cent increase on the inaugural 2023-24 season.

Mayor David McMullen said, "The Subi Night Market has firmly become a Saturday evening staple in warmer months. Congratulations to City staff for their efforts in ensuring the markets are a success, for this well-deserved recognition, and for the ongoing work to plan for and deliver future seasons."

Provided by Tatum Stafford, Senior Media and Communications Advisor – City of Subiaco



Town of Victoria Park

The Town of Victoria Park hosted its inaugural Arts & Culture Fest on the banks of the Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River), celebrating the rich Noongar stories and history of the area through a variety of arts and performances. The event was supported by Lotterywest and made use of the lightshow capabilities of the new Boorloo Bridge and commissioned a light and sound installation by Sohan Hayes.

Pictured: Members of the public enjoying Arts & Culture Fest
Provided by Andy Nicolau, Maryanne Gardner and Danica Zuks – Town of Victoria Park



City of Swan

Swan Jobs Expos, organised by the City of Swan, are proving highly successful at bringing employers face-to-face with job seekers.

With over 13,000 businesses operating within the City's boundaries, a highly competitive local jobs market has developed, with employers competing for a limited number of skilled workers.

In response, Swan Jobs Expos were introduced to provide a direct link between employers and job seekers, while also promoting the City of Swan's inclusive and accessible approach to employment.

The Expos also provide an ideal starting point for those looking to upskill in their industry or reskill into other career paths.

Pictured: Swan Jobs Expo – Ellenbrook

Provided by Indi Fillery, A/Coordinator Media and Communications – City of Swan



City of Vincent

Local residents, schools, groups and families of war veterans have joined hands to create handmade poppies for the City of Vincent's Poppy Project.

As a heartfelt way to commemorate Remembrance Day, more than a thousand poppies now form a grand display outside Vincent's Administration Building in Leederville.

The meaningful tribute piece was installed in July.

Photo caption: City of Vincent staff putting up poppies at last year's Poppy Project installation day.

Provided by Kristie Lim, Media and Communications Officer – City of Vincent



City of Wanneroo

The City of Wanneroo recently celebrated NAIDOC Week 2025 with a Flag Raising Ceremony at the Wanneroo Civic Centre. The City has celebrated NAIDOC Week with a flag raising ceremony since 2010. This year, STARS Foundation students from Butler College captivated the crowd with a cultural dance performance.

Pictured: Butler College STARS Foundation students performing at the City's NAIDOC Week Flag Raising Ceremony.
 Provided by the City of Wanneroo Communications and Brand Team. Image by Digital Content Creator Jess Lansell



Shire of Wongan-Ballidu

The Shire of Wongan-Ballidu recently launched When Will We Meet Again? — a heartfelt local road safety campaign developed with our incredible emergency services. This initiative reminded drivers that while our first responders are always there when needed, they'd much rather see us at a BBQ or community event than at the scene of a crash. The campaign encouraged everyone to pause, reflect on their driving choices, and commit to safer roads — for ourselves, our loved ones, and our local heroes.

- Those involved were employees and volunteers for:
- Wongan Hills Police
 - Wongan Hills St John Ambulance
 - Wongan Hills Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service
 - Ballidu Volunteer Fire and Emergency Service

Provided by Esther Mepham, Community Engagement Officer – Shire of Wongan-Ballidu



Shire of West Arthur

Over 300 people in the Shire of West Arthur attended two ANZAC Day services to remember those who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations. The Dawn Service was held at Lake Towerrinning, and the mid-morning service was held in Darkan. With many Māori people living within the Shire, the Darkan Service honours Australia and New Zealand. Highlights of the service include the singing of both National anthems, flag raising, wreath laying, and a haka performed by members of the Māori community. Afterwards, people visited the Betty Brown Museum to see the 'Women at War' exhibition.

Pictured: Members of the West Arthur Māori community perform the haka. Photo by Astrid Volzke (Our Photo Stories)
 Provided by Sharon Bell, Community Development Officer – Shire of West Arthur



Shire of York

The Shire of York's cultural burning project was recognised with a Highly Commended Award at the 2024 Resilient Australia Local Government Awards. In partnership with Ballardong Elders, bushfire volunteers, and environmental groups, the Shire reintroduced traditional mosaic burning to manage vegetation and reduce bushfire risk.

Six cultural burns have taken place across Ballardong Country, with more planned in 2025.

This project honours Aboriginal fire knowledge while improving land health and disaster resilience. It was also nominated for the 2025 National Awards for Local Government in the Aboriginal Recognition and Disaster Readiness categories.

Provided by Allan Brady, Media and Engagement Officer – Shire of York

How Local Government can influence capacity charges on energy costs

While Local Government Authorities (LGAs) need financial resilience to provide their communities with critical services and infrastructure, they are not immune to rising costs. Synergy is working proactively to help customers find opportunities to reduce energy costs.

According to Synergy Account Manager Luke Randell, LGAs who can reduce their demand for electricity when the load on the energy system is at its highest could take advantage of the potential for lower capacity charges.

"In current economic conditions taking steps to influence capacity charges could make a substantial difference. Your LGA's capacity charges are influenced by how much electricity is consumed on Peak Demand Days, which are the four days with the highest demand in the SWIS during the hot season," said Mr Randell.

Capacity charges support WA's demand for electricity

As Mr Randell explained, the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) manages the reserve capacity mechanism in the South West Interconnected System (SWIS). As an electricity retailer, Synergy pays AEMO for capacity based on the amount of electricity it requires to meet its customer demand, with this cost being apportioned to customers through either a capacity charge or as part of a bundled price for electricity, depending on the type of electricity supply agreement.

To determine the capacity liability, AEMO uses the median value of consumption during the Peak Demand Intervals, which are three consecutive 30-minute intervals across four days between 1 December and 31 March when system demand is highest.

"Your demand during these intervals affects your capacity charges during the next capacity year, which begins on 1 October and concludes on 30 September the following calendar year," said Mr Randell.

"Since capacity charges are based on the days when demand in the SWIS is highest, reducing electricity use during these times, generally between 5pm and 9pm on the hottest days in summer, could mean the capacity charges that are payable by you the following capacity year could be lower. This also has the benefit of helping to balance supply and demand across the SWIS."

Electricity management can impact capacity charges

Mr Randell noted that businesses may use an electricity management practice known as "peak-shaving" to reduce electricity use during predicted peak times, to potentially reduce their capacity charges for the next year.



Your LGA's capacity charges are influenced by how much electricity is consumed on Peak Demand Days, which are the four days with the highest demand in the SWIS during the hot season.

Synergy Account Manager,
Luke Randell



"We recommend looking at your LGA's electricity consumption to identify periods of high electricity usage. You could do this by taking advantage of usage interval data and other features in My Account, which can help you to monitor and manage your electricity consumption."

"Some businesses find they can adjust for days that are likely to be Peak Demand Days, for example making changes to air conditioning settings, encouraging staff to work remotely, or powering down energy-hungry equipment for the time when demand on the SWIS is likely to be highest."

Synergy offers a Peak Demand Notification Subscription Service to eligible business customers* which may help organisations better manage their electricity consumption during forecast Peak Demand Days.

To learn more, please contact Luke Randell at luke.randell@synergy.net.au or call **0436 916 941**.

*Peak Demand Notification Subscription Service eligibility and terms and conditions apply. Visit synergy.net.au/peakdemand for details.

Sign up to receive notifications during peak times and you could save.

With our Peak Demand Notification Subscription Service*, you could receive notifications of likely periods of high system demand to help inform your electricity use and potentially save on capacity charges.

Subscribe now at
synergy.net.au/peakdemand

*Peak Demand Notification Subscription Service T&Cs apply. Synergy's Peak Demand Notification Subscription Service is offered in Synergy's sole discretion.



State Council resolutions

WALGA's State Council is the decision-making representative body of all 139 Member Local Governments and is responsible for sector-wide policy making and strategic planning.

On Wednesday 2 July, WALGA hosted its third State Council meeting of the year at its office in West Leederville.

Strategic Forum

At the Strategic Forum, State Council received presentations from representatives of St John WA, who discussed the importance of publicly accessible accessible automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and first aid training, alongside a personal testimonial from former MLC, Louise Kingston and her husband Garry.

WALGA staff also provided a presentation on prior and upcoming work undertaken in the renewable energy space, an overview of the WALGA Budget 2025-26, and an update on the Local Government legislative reforms.

State Council meeting

At the State Council meeting, resolutions were made on the following matters:

- Adoption of a new Advocacy Position on suspension and disqualification of Elected Members for offences was deferred pending further work.
- Endorsement of a new Advocacy Position on State Development applications and decision making.
- Endorsement of a new State and Local Level Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in WA.
- Endorsement of the WALGA budget for 2025-26.

For full resolutions, visit the WALGA website.



LEAN INTO LEGACY

LGC25

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22–24 September 2025
**Perth Convention and
Exhibition Centre**

The WALGA Local
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Our ultimate program of
speakers and sessions
will educate, inspire and
entertain.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

DR RICHARD HAMES



ICONS BREAKFAST

GLENN McGRATH



CLOSING SESSION

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