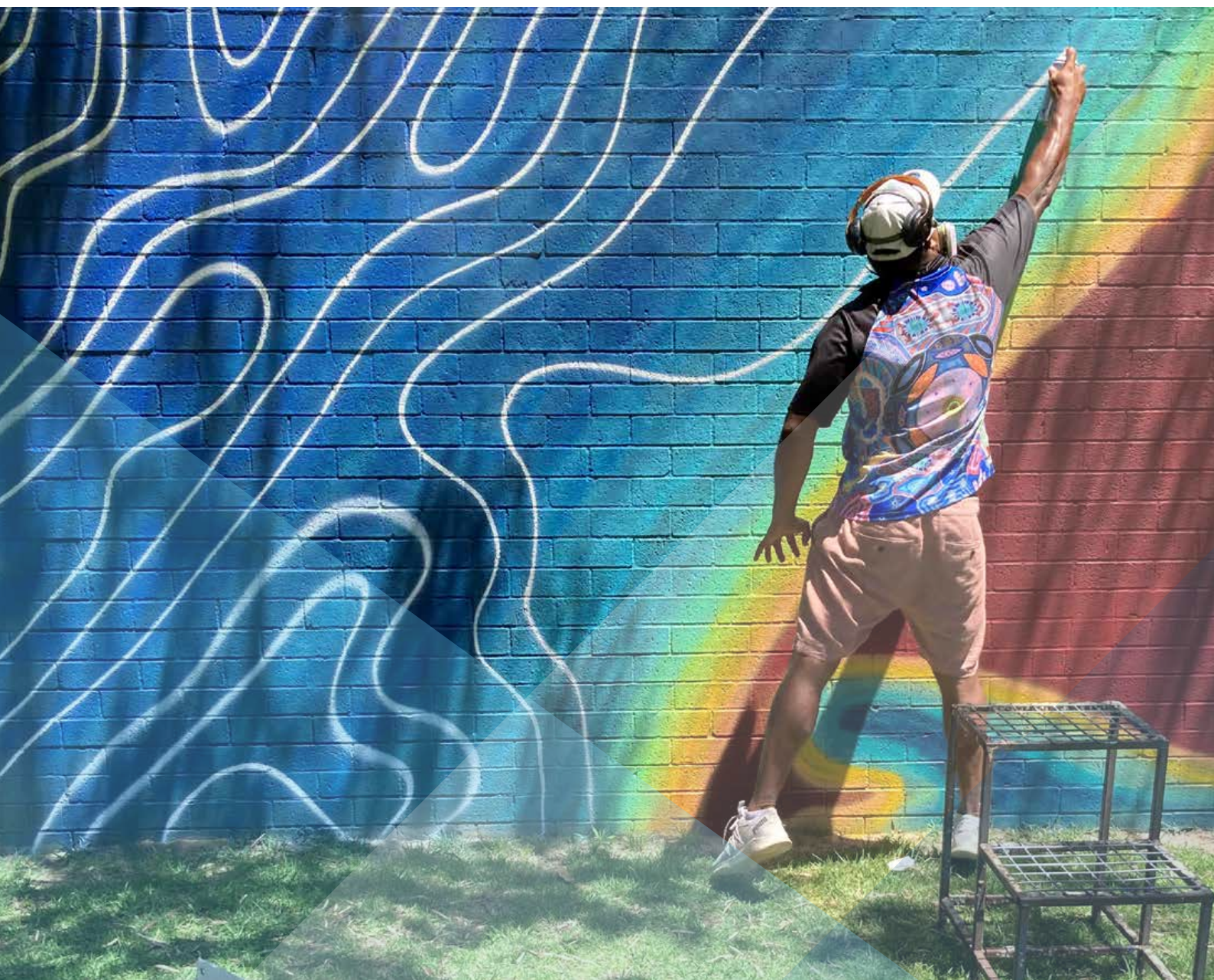


# Western Councillor



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VALE  
TROY PICKARD

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SHINING A  
LIGHT ON  
ASTROTOURISM

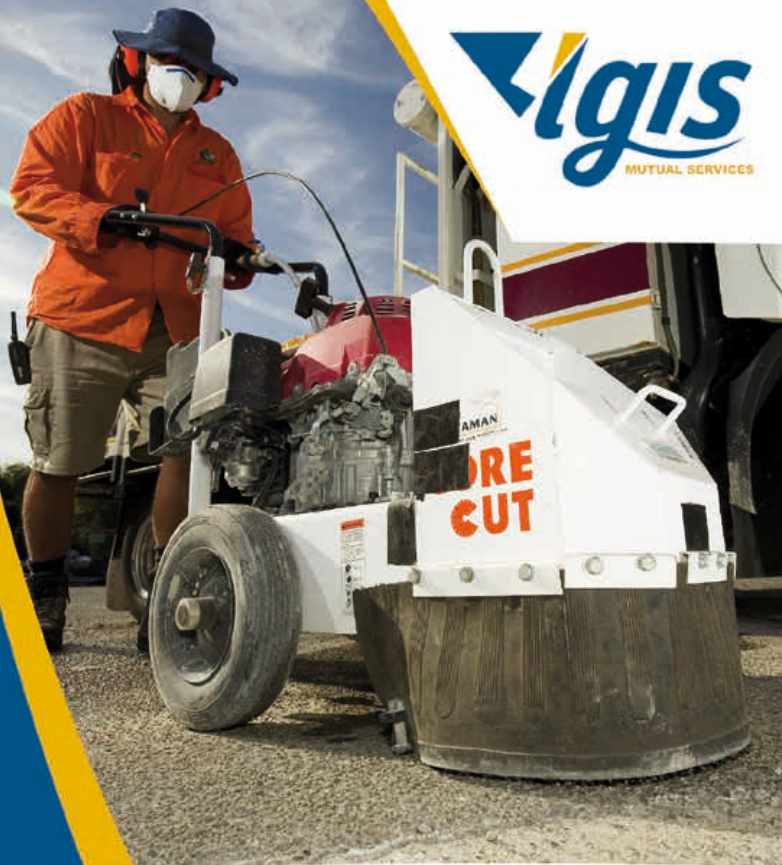
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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

# Peer Support Team

A practical way to provide mediation and conciliation support to Local Governments in Western Australia.

The Peer Support Team is an initiative between the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) and Local Government Professionals WA.

The team was formed to provide conciliation, negotiation and mediation support to Local Governments that identified issues of relationship conflict between Councillors, or between Councillors and senior staff.

The key objective is to assist Local Governments resolve these issues

of conflict and reduce the need for formal investigations or enquiries.

The team will meet with the affected Councillors and staff individually, as well as in a group setting, allowing all parties to freely express their views in a neutral environment. The team will then assist the Local Government to develop outcomes and a path forward that is suitable for all involved.

So, to head off possible conflict or for the best resolution in situations where it already exists, call Nick Sloan or Candy Choo on the numbers below.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
PEER SUPPORT  
TEAM HOTLINE  
NUMBERS

Nick Sloan  
CEO  
WALGA  
Tel 9213 2025

Candy Choo  
CEO  
LG Professionals WA  
Tel 9271 1136



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**Welcome to Issue 118** of Western Councillor

## COVER:

The Town of Cottesloe received a grant from the WA Police State Graffiti Community Fund to paint a mural as a graffiti prevention strategy. Aboriginal artist and Wadjuk man Justin Martin of Djurandi Dreaming was commissioned to paint the mural on the back of a tennis wall at a local reserve. Justin held workshops with local primary students which were used as inspiration for this colourful and meaningful mural that the community now enjoys.



GINGIN



SUBIACO



SWAN



Chief Executive Officer  
**Nick Sloan**

## FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

The first quarter for 2022 has thrown considerable challenges at our members – some anticipated but many not. The efforts of Local Government Elected Members, officers and community volunteers to respond to emergency events across the State as always has been extraordinary and I'd like to acknowledge these efforts on behalf of the WALGA State Council and staff.

Limitations in the capacity, reliability and resilience of critical telecommunications infrastructure across remote, regional and peri-urban Western Australia has again been highlighted during recent bushfires and floods. While some improvements have been achieved, work is ongoing and advocacy for further action is underway.

137 sites were identified by Local Governments for installation of emergency satellite WiFi systems funded by the Commonwealth. Progress has been made with installation completed at 90 of those sites and a further 12 currently being installed as at 14 February.

In 2020, the Commonwealth Government funded the provision of 12-hour battery back-up at 108 mobile towers in WA through Round 1 of the Mobile Network Hardening Program, with all the upgrades due to be completed by June 2022. Round 2 has just been announced, with 141 WA sites successful in receiving funding – comprising nearly one quarter of the projects being funded Australia-wide.

A state-wide review of communications infrastructure power resilience is being undertaken using information provided by the telecommunications carriers, Western Power and Horizon Power. This \$240,000 project is jointly funded by the Federal and State Governments and is planned for completion in late 2022.

As part of the 2022/23 Commonwealth Budget submission to the Hon Michael Sukkar MP, Assistant Treasurer, WALGA provided information that funding is required to enable adequate power backup for mobile telecommunications infrastructure in peri-urban areas of WA. This is being followed up during meetings with key members of the Government and Opposition.

The Australian Local Government Association has advocated for the continuation of the Stronger Regional Digital Connectivity Package of \$55 million over four years, for continual improvements to digital connectivity in regional, rural and remote communities as part of its Pre-Budget Submission 2022-23 to the Commonwealth.

Importantly, the 2021 Regional Telecommunications Review tabled in Parliament in February identifies sixteen key findings and provides twelve recommendations by which the Commonwealth Government can help to lay the foundations of a more accessible, competitive, and reliable regional telecommunications landscape which is able to leverage the opportunities of the digital economy. This provides an evidence base and identifies initiatives that can be delivered to significantly improve telecommunications service delivery. We will be referring to this in our advocacy efforts.

As we move rapidly towards a Federal election which has the potential to shape and redefine the relationship between the Commonwealth and the Local Government sector, our engagement with the Commonwealth directly and through the Australian Local Government Association will accelerate over coming months.

Our success in advocating for ongoing support from the Commonwealth for a continuation of transport and community infrastructure funding; coastal hazard risk planning support; investment in the upgrading and improved maintenance of the State's road network; and telecommunications and digital connectivity upgrades, will be measured by our members following the 2022-23 Federal Budget.

We look forward to engaging actively with all members as we move through State and Federal budget cycles towards a defining federal election.



President  
**Cr Karen Chappel**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Western Australia will be front and centre in the forthcoming Federal Election, with fierce contests in many seats that may decide the election result. There have already been significant funding commitments and policy pledges made by political parties but the opportunity to secure additional, targeted support for WA Local Governments and the communities they represent, is before us.

WALGA is part of the national election campaign, coordinated by the Australian Local Government Association, which is built around the theme, 'Don't leave local communities behind'.

Over a five-week campaign commencing Monday, 28 March, we will be focusing each week on one of the campaign's five priority themes: economic recovery; transport and community infrastructure; building resilience; the circular economy; and intergovernmental relations.

Importantly, WALGA will focus on highlighting the uniquely Western Australian context in each of these priority areas, using local examples and pointing to the role of Local Governments in WA, as well as key funding asks, project recommendations and outcomes such as community benefits, job creation, and economic or environmental impacts.

As President, I will be writing to sitting Members of Parliament and candidates, and seeking meetings with them, on your behalf. There will also be media statements on each theme, every week of the campaign.

In addition, ALGA have prepared artwork for email signatures, social media posts and print mediums around each of the themes, which can be customised with images and quotes from WA Mayors and Presidents.

Local Governments are encouraged to meet with their Federal Members and candidates, as well as State Members to discuss the priorities for Federal funding and the needs of their local communities.

All members are encouraged to support ALGA's platform and formally pass motions in support of the campaign at Council meetings.

The ALGA campaign website [www.dontleaveyourlocalcommunitiesbehind.com.au](http://www.dontleaveyourlocalcommunitiesbehind.com.au) contains background information, templates and case studies from Councils across Australia.



## FROM THE MINISTER

As you would all be aware, the public consultation period on the local government reform package has now concluded.

I want to thank everyone for the time and effort in providing feedback to the reforms. I know this process can be time consuming, but it is absolutely critical we hear from the sector about their views on the reforms. The insights and feedback you have provided will be important in guiding the final package we take to parliament.

In the most recent update I was provided there had been more than 100 responses to the reforms.

I have had a first look at some submissions, and I am very grateful to see many different and constructive suggestions. I know that there have also been some consistent themes in responses, and the State Government will consider these in detail.

I think it is also fair to say that the reforms have been warmly received, perhaps because they reflect a significant body of prior work. The reforms we put to the sector were informed by a significant number of reports, inquiries and position papers which have been released in recent years. They also respond to some of the issues and trends we have seen surrounding the sector over the last decade.

I think we can all agree that addressing some critical issues in the local government sector, and fixing gaps in the tools we have available to support

and address issues when they arise, is an important step in ensuring public confidence in our system of local government and community democracy.

I recognise we have a diverse local government sector and any time we attempt to introduce change or standardisation through reforms, there will be a wide variety of views. I am also cognisant that the reforms will mean different things for different councils depending on things such as your size, location and community.

I know that in order to work, reforms need to consider how local government works differently across the State. But this does not mean we cannot achieve simplification of more routine things, to enable councils to get on with the business of delivering for their community. I know too, that the public across the State always expect the same standard of integrity and accountability in council decision-making.

That's why a number of the proposed reforms are tiered, based on key elements such as size and location.

I want assure you – I am listening to the feedback. For example, I am aware of the concerns raised by some councils about the standardisation of councillor numbers, particularly for councils in regional and remote areas. There is always room to iterate and improve, and I am committed to working with the sector to ensuring that the proposals deliver the best possible end result.

As I have said previously, I am committed to working with the sector on those finer details, particularly around how the reforms will be implemented. While the formal consultation period has ended, I will continue to engage with sector stakeholders, and I would warmly welcome any further suggestions for how the reform agenda can most effectively deliver for local communities.



## FROM THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

### Challenging times make all government local

While the rest of the nation has shifted to living and coping with COVID-19, WA is only just starting to see the virus spread throughout our communities.

For two years we've had relative freedom, and for that I am appreciative of the efforts of everyone who has worked to keep us safe. Local Governments have played an important role during these uncertain times, and there are a few more to come before we transition to living with COVID instead of in fear of COVID.

As we make this transition there will be challenges, and it will impact different parts of the State in different ways.

The tourism sector is just one example where a blanket approach to recovery will not work. The Premier's constant refrain that we've just experienced two of the best years in tourism is like a punch in the guts for some operators who may not survive even another few weeks.

Likewise, the health impacts of COVID-19 affecting our communities will manifest differently. Fatigue, mental health, and the stress of managing constant change will require significant investment to support community led responses.

Our stressed hospital and health system will be put to the test. What is patently clear is that we need far more investment in this sector, whether it's in Perth or the regions. For the latter, there is still far too much pressure for Local Governments to recruit and pay for doctors and health professionals. The advent of COVID has highlighted just how thin the services are – and how much more needs to be done to ensure everyone has access to quality health care.

Most importantly, as we transition into this next phase it's important there is a vision and plan set for the State as we re-join the world. In a State as wealthy as Western Australia I expect to see significant effort from the McGowan Government to make good on their promise to diversify the economy – something they have so far failed to achieve.

Many Councils have spoken up about the proposed reforms during the consultation period, which will be vital when the legislation comes to pass.

Having as many voices as possible speaking up about laws that directly impact local communities is important, even if the Government chooses to ignore those voices.

While the window for having your say has closed, the Opposition stands ready to bring any concerns, queries or questions into briefings and into the Parliament.

The Nationals WA has a long history of working with the local government sector and the National-Liberal Alliance will continue to count on your fearless and frank advice.

Whether it's keeping locals safe, attracting job-creating enterprises, or making sure projects thrive, local Councils, their elected members, and their staff play a vital role in developing the great visions they have for their communities.

Our team stands ready to work alongside the sector – my door is always open.

# FORECASTING A CHALLENGE FOR SECTOR BUDGETS

By WALGA Economist, Daniel Thomson

As Local Governments prepare their budgets for 2022-23 the task of forecasting has been made even more challenging by recent events which have heightened risks to the economic outlook.

For Western Australia, the spread of COVID-19 in the community for the first time, is a cause of considerable uncertainty for the year ahead.

Up until now, the WA economy has been largely insulated from the impacts of COVID-19 due to the State's closed borders and a lack of a widespread outbreak. This enabled the WA economy to remain strong, growing by 2.6% in 2020-21 - the highest growth rate since 2013-14. The avoidance of lockdowns, Government stimulus spending, a buoyant housing market and a strong mining sector have all been central to the state's economic success in recent times. This trend continued through the first two quarters of 2021-22 and Treasury's latest forecasts predict that growth of the WA State economy will reach 3.5% for the 2021-22 financial year. The key challenges for the WA economy at present relate to its economic success, with capacity constraints - particularly in relation to workers and the supply of key materials to support the booming construction sectors - acting as a brake on growth.

The strength of WA's labour market saw the unemployment rate drop to 3.7% in January 2022, compared to 8.5% in June 2020. The struggle to find workers is familiar for Western Australian organisations, with the situation emerging where there are more job vacancies than unemployed people to fill them. This has put immense pressure on hiring managers as they struggle to fill vacancies. Many WA Local Governments

are already reporting shortages of skilled and unskilled workers, as well as increased staff turnover. The tight labour market conditions are slowly translating into salary increases as the Wage Price Index in WA climbed above 2% annually for the first time since 2015.

The WA economy is also suffering from shortages of materials and supplies from the impact of COVID-19 on global supply chains, closed borders and natural disasters, which is adding significant pressure to operating costs. Cost pressures are not being experienced equally across regions and industries, with the largest increase related to construction costs which jumped 5% in the December quarter and around 15% year-on-year. This is a key issue for Western Australian Local Governments as they look to set their budgets, with many reporting difficulties accessing building materials, machinery and equipment, which is driving significant increases in costs and causing delays to project delivery.

Inflationary pressures are set to be exacerbated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine with increases in global oil prices expected to flow through to the cost of goods, most noticeably for Western Australians at the bowser.

Given the current uncertainties that exist with the impact of COVID-19 and geopolitical events, it is important that Local Governments plan for multiple scenarios and take into account local considerations in setting their budgets and forward planning.

WALGA's Local Government Cost Index assists Members to forecast costs for their budgets and is updated as part of the quarterly Economic Briefing. To subscribe or to find out more, contact WALGA Economist, Daniel Thomson on [dthomson@walga.asn.au](mailto:dthomson@walga.asn.au).



## VALE TROY PICKARD

WA Local Government Association Staff and State Council were greatly saddened by the passing of former WALGA President Troy Pickard in January.

WALGA President Cr Karen Chappel said Mr Pickard was committed to bringing about positive change for his local

communities in Stirling and Joondalup and a passionate advocate for the sector at both the State and National level as President of WALGA and the Australian Local Government Association.

"Across his 15 years of services as an Elected Member, Troy made an immense contribution to the local communities of Stirling and Joondalup, both as a Councillor and in leadership roles of Deputy Mayor and Mayor," Cr Chappel said.

"Beyond this local impact, Troy made great strides in representing the WA Local Government sector in his roles as President from 2010 and 2015, and WALGA Deputy President for three years prior; and on the national stage as ALGA President from 2014 to 2016 and Deputy President from 2010 to 2014."

Cr Chappel said Mr Pickard was committed to achieving positive outcomes for the Local Government sector; with his

# SHINING A LIGHT ON ASTROTOURISM

The Granites, Shire of Mount Magnet. Photo courtesy Jeff Henderson

The State Government has indicated their support for preserving some of the best stargazing areas in WA with the release of the Dark Sky and Astrotourism Position Statement in January.

The clear skies of Western Australia provide an excellent opportunity for stargazing, with both scientific and recreational observation long established in WA, and photography and environmental tourism activities on the rise.

As a growing segment of Western Australia's tourism industry, Local Governments are providing their active support for local businesses and tourism operators active in this space.

The Shires of Chittering, Carnamah, Dandaragan, West Arthur, Lake Grace, Mingenew, Morawa, Narrogin, Northam, Ashburton, Perenjori, Three Springs, Narembeen, Wickepin and Wongan-Ballidu and have partnered with Astrotourism WA to list their towns as "astrotourism towns" and attract astrotourism visitors.

These Shires actively promote their towns as destinations for star gazing and astrophotography, working with Astrotourism WA to reduce light pollution which then protects Western Australia's world-class dark sky.

As Ellie Cuthbert, then Economic Development Manager at the Shire of Morawa told WALGA YourEveryday:

"The Shire of Morawa have been really supportive in regards to astro-tourism. They are very keen on protecting our night sky asset and have endorsed us as being an astro-tourism town, and along with that will come policy and protection of the night sky."

Light and dust pollution from sources such as industrial areas, residential areas, streets and roads can detrimentally affect dark sky locations and the capacity of communities to support and attract astrotourism businesses and visitors.

The draft Dark Sky and Astrotourism Position Statement released by the WA Planning Commission outlines a set of planning mechanisms that can be used by planning authorities, such as Local Governments, to help ensure that new development proposals preserve dark sky locations for the purposes of supporting astrotourism activities.

Developed together with WALGA, the City of Wanneroo, the Gravity Discovery Centre, Perth's resident observatories, community members and a range of Government agencies, the position statement encourages consideration of sources of light pollution and alternative options to ensure dark skies can be maximised.

The position statement can be viewed at <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/position-statement-dark-sky-and-astrotourism>

persistence and influence being of great benefit in funding negotiations, with hundreds of millions of dollars in funding secured for Local Government across many portfolios such as roads, libraries, community infrastructure, waste and environment initiatives.

"Never one to back away from difficult situations, Troy worked hard to establish strong relationships with our stakeholders whilst still pursuing the best outcome for Local Government with determination and tenacity."

"He will be sadly missed and we offer our condolences to Troy's family and friends."

City of Joondalup Mayor Albert Jacobs honoured Mr Pickard's contribution to the local community, City and Council, saying he was one of the most influential people in the City of Joondalup's 24-year history.

"History will reflect kindly on Troy's many achievements, particularly within Joondalup," Mayor Jacobs said. "He has left behind a legacy that will be hard to match."

ALGA President Cr Linda Scott said during his time as ALGA President, Mr Pickard successfully led ALGA's campaign to restore the indexation of Financial Assistance Grants, controversially frozen by the Coalition government in 2014.

ALGA's success in securing an extra \$1.105 billion in Roads to Recovery funding in June 2015 – the biggest single funding injection Local Government had received from the Federal government to that time – was another highlight of Mr Pickard's term as president.

"Our deepest condolences go to Troy's family, friends, and the Joondalup community," Cr Scott said.

# Around the Nation

## News from State Associations across the country

### NSW



#### LGNSW welcomes soaring number of women elected to council

Communities across NSW can look forward to better, more representative local government following a dramatic rise in the number of women elected to councils, the sector's peak body said today.

Local Government NSW (LGNSW) President Darriea Turley said women now make up 39.5% of all councillors in NSW – an 8.5% jump on the proportion of women elected in 2016/17.

"Councils are the closest level of government to their communities, so to ensure everyone has a voice it is important that they reflect the communities they represent.

"The proportion of women on council was stuck between 27 and 31% for nearly a decade, so to make such great progress in a single election is really worth celebrating."

"It's a great outcome from the 4 December local government elections, and it's gratifying to see the result of the hard work to put in by LGNSW, the Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) and the NSW Government.

"Some 69 of 124 councils that held elections in NSW now have more women on council than in previous terms.

"An impressive 27 councils actually have a female majority, nearly three times the number we saw in the last council term."

Cr Turley said the result follows a focused effort to boost council diversity, with LGNSW and ALGWA offering mentoring services and a range of development programs providing practical information on leadership and the tools and techniques of successful political campaigns.

"One example is LGNSW's Leadership for Aspiring Women Program, but there is a wide range of ongoing professional development programs designed to improve council diversity at both the elected and professional level," she said.

"The tremendous work by ALGWA NSW and President Cassandra Coleman, to conduct 29 forums across NSW last year with over 200 attendees, also helped to empower women to stand for Local Government elections.

"Surveys showed 98% of participants found the workshops useful, and 67% said they were more likely to run for council as a result of attending."

Cr Turley said another important contribution to the higher proportion of women standing for council was the introduction of superannuation for mayors and councillors, bringing them into line with the rest of the

Australian workforce.

"Lack of superannuation for councillors has been a real disincentive to stand for council, particularly for women, and I'm proud that LGNSW helped put our elected representatives on an equal footing to other workers.

"Similarly, our advocacy helped secure childcare for women councillors, as announced by the former Minister at LGNSW's International Women's Day lunch last year.

"These reforms are all about breaking down the barriers to community service, so NSW communities benefit from councils that truly represent them and their needs."

Cr Turley said 2022 would be a challenging year for NSW, as councils sought to help drive a locally led recovery from the economic impacts of the COVID pandemic.

"I would like to congratulate all those councillors who have been elected this term.

"It is a huge honour to serve your community, and I thank you all for your commitment to making a real and positive difference.

"While council can be tough, it is truly rewarding, and you are surrounded by many support bases.

"LGNSW will continue to be a strong advocate for your hard work: I am excited to see the progress and results our councils are set to deliver in this new local government term."

### QLD



#### Councils welcome Federal Government funding commitment to the Great Barrier Reef

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) has welcomed the Federal Government's \$1 billion, nine-year commitment to protecting the Great Barrier Reef.

LGAQ CEO Alison Smith said Queensland councils were acutely aware of the importance of the Great Barrier Reef.

"Queensland's 32 Reef catchment councils are already the single largest investor in Reef conservation. We estimate their investment is more than \$228 million per year," Ms Smith said.

"On behalf of our members we have been seeking a commitment from both the State and Federal governments to match this funding to address issues such as water quality in a bid to protect the Reef and the 64,000 Queensland jobs it supports.

"This investment announced today by the Federal Government is crucial to protecting the Reef's intrinsic environmental, cultural and economic value into the future."

Ms Smith noted Federal Labor Leader Anthony Albanese had this month pledged to spend \$163 million on Great Barrier Reef protection projects and research as part of his pre-Election campaign.

"It's great to see both sides of politics pledging support to protect the Great Barrier Reef and councils stand ready to work in partnership with the Commonwealth to ensure the right projects are funded to get the best results for the Reef and the local communities that rely on it."

### SA



#### Peterborough Linked to Outer Space

The Premier of SA, Steven Marshall MP officially opened the Nova Systems Space Precinct in Peterborough on Tuesday 8 February which houses ground station transmitters that feed data between commercial and government agencies and satellites orbiting in space.

Peterborough was chosen as an ideal location for the facility due to its flat geography and that it's electronically very silent, which means that there is little electromagnetic interference.

Jim McDowell, Chief Executive Officer of Nova Systems advised that it's likely that somewhere between \$170 to \$200 million worth of hardware will be located at the site, with local trades and workers being engaged during the ongoing construction phases.

Mayor Ruth Whittle has welcomed the investment and extremely grateful that Nova Systems had chosen to come to Peterborough and any employment generated is a big thing for the community.

### TAS



#### LGAT supports a review of the workplace culture in local government

Today the Tasmanian local government sector confirmed its commitment to ensuring a safe workplace for elected representatives and staff and supported a call for the State Government to commission a review of the workplace health and safety for local government elected representatives.

President of the Local Government Association of Tasmania Mayor Christina Holmdahl commended the decision of the sector to work with the State Government on ensuring local government is providing safe and respectful workplaces.

"The Local Government Association of Tasmania is supportive of a collaborative approach between State Government and

our sector to ensure local government representatives feel safe at work and in representing their communities. While many of Tasmania's councils should be proud of their culture and support for their leaders, there is a need to more closely examine this issue and to strive for improvements." Mayor Holmdahl said.



### The good, the bad, and the costly

The significant community investment in social housing that is required for Victoria will come from a narrow and often under pressure sector of the community, being new home buyers, as well as through rate increases for all Victorian ratepayers.

That's the message delivered to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), its metropolitan and regional councils, who today saw for the first time the Victorian Government's two-pronged approach to funding social and affordable housing.

From July 2024 new residential developments of three or more lots will contribute 1.75% of their build cost to a social and affordable housing fund. The MAV and Victorian councils support the use of mandatory contributions to provide for social and affordable housing, however such contributions are best sought across broad sectors of the State economy.

Combined with the investment of Victoria's Big Housing Build, this will go a long way towards providing a roof over Victorians' heads.

Disappointingly, the Victorian Government has walked away from its long partnership with Local Government to provide services to the residents of social and affordable housing, by exempting itself from paying council rates and charges on almost 70,000 social housing dwellings across metropolitan Melbourne and the regional cities of Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong. On the high level numbers provided by the State Government this morning, over ten years this will divert upwards of \$540 million away from vital council services such as parks, waste management, kindergartens, active transport and maternal and child health.

"Increased access to social housing dwellings is vital to relieving homelessness and having housing options for those in critical need – every Victorian agrees on that," MAV President Cr David Clark said.

"But providing local services to these residents – the families and individuals living in these dwellings – is also critical. Social housing should be supported and subsidised by the Victorian Government, not just by the ratepayers of each municipality.

"The cumulative impact of this reversal on rates and charges, of other cost-shifting measures, as well as the financial constraints of the rate cap, once again places Council budgets in a no win position when it comes to just maintaining, let alone enhancing, much needed community services. Communities are asking councils to do more than ever in their local areas while the State actively works to undermine their financial sustainability.

"Social housing is clearly a State responsibility. Yet once again the State is using the ratepayer as its means to money for its own purposes, like the fire services or parks levies. Rates are 3 per cent of the national tax take, or one sixth of the taxes paid to the State each year. Yet the State continues to "mine" our already small tax base for its own service delivery."



### Federal govt plan to accelerate Australia's transition to a circular economy welcomed by ALGA

A Morrison Government pledge to increase the recycling of waste plastic, glass, paper, and other products has been welcomed by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA).

The Remade in Australia recycling initiative announced by Prime Minister Scott Morrison in Sydney on Monday includes a renewed focus on improving recovery rates by getting consumers to buy more products made from recycled materials.

Remade in Australia builds on existing Commonwealth measures to achieve an 80 percent average recovery rate from all waste streams by 2030.

ALGA President Linda Scott said that to meet this ambitious target, the amount of waste diverted from landfills will have to rise from the current 43.5 million tonnes to at least 58 million tonnes, an increase of about 35 percent.

"This will require the Commonwealth to exert a greater leadership role focused on appropriate policy settings, incentives for business and innovators, and continued support for local government.

"Our 537 councils do all the heavy lifting when it comes to collecting, sorting, and recycling municipal waste.

"We partner with industry to improve materials recovery rates, and we help educate households to become more aware of recycling and about minimising food waste.

"These new commitments by the Morrison Government will support this work that is

directed at accelerating Australia's transition to a circular economy," Cr Scott said.

A recent report by consulting group PwC says that designing out waste and ensuring that products and resources are kept their highest utility and value will deliver a nearly \$2 trillion boost to the economy over the next 20 years.

Local governments are well placed to lead the transition to a circular economy and to help identify and implement front-line solutions in that journey, Cr Scott said.

"The Shoalhaven City Council, for example, is investing in technology that sorts red bin contents and recycles 90 percent, leaving just 10 percent for disposal.

"In the Northern Rivers region of NSW, the Tweed Shire Council recently opened a state-of-the-art organic recycling facility.

"This can process 25,000 tonnes of food and garden organics annually, with the compost soon to be made available to households, farmers, and businesses as well as being used on council-maintained parks and gardens.

"We need to facilitate more enterprises like this at the local and regional levels.

"That is why ALGA is calling on the next federal government to provide funding of \$100 million per annum over four years to fund local government circular waste innovation projects," Cr Scott said.

Councils, particularly in rural, regional and remote areas, also need sustainable funding to help them address barriers to greater recycling such as thin markets, lack of infrastructure, and high transport costs.

"As we head into the federal election, we will be asking all candidates to commit to returning council Financial Assistance Grants to a level equivalent to 1 percent of total Commonwealth taxation revenue – which is the level they were at in the 1980s," Cr Scott said.

"Financial Assistance Grants today have shrunk to around .6 percent of Commonwealth taxation revenue.

"Boosting them back up to 1 percent will create over 16,200 jobs and boost GDP by \$2.37 billion annually.

"It will also ensure that local governments continue to invest in waste collection services and modern materials recycling facilities that can create a greater supply of raw materials for remade products," Cr Scott said.

# WALGA TRAINING 2022: SPECIALISED COURSES FOR ELECTED MEMBERS

WALGA Training continues to focus on reshaping, updating and extending our highly specialised training offerings for our members.

Councillors who have undertaken their Council Member Essentials training since the last election have been impressed with the quality content and the practical knowledge they have gained. The training has helped build the skills and confidence in becoming effective and efficient decision makers for their community. We are committed to support our members on their journey to continue their professional development.

Our program offerings for 2022 will help deepen understanding and obligation as a Council Member across a large range of highly targeted topics which can lead to the nationally recognised program LGA50220 Diploma of Local Government - Elected Member.

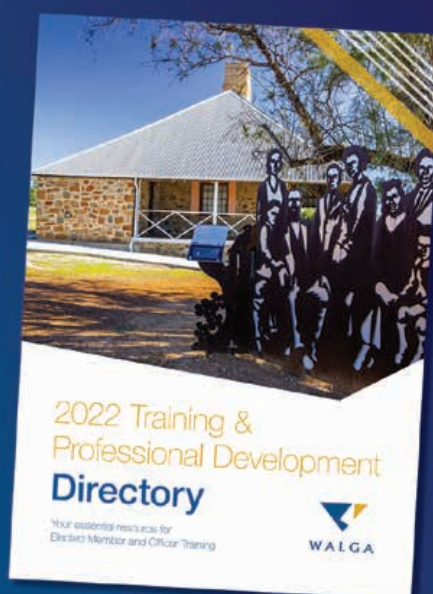
When undertaking training, you will enjoy the professional guidance of our highly skilled and experienced trainers, meet and build a relationship with our Governance team for ongoing support during your time at Council and build a professional network of Councillors across WA.

Outlined on the right is an overview of courses on offer. Should courses scheduled to be held at WALGA's West Leederville office not be delivered in person due to COVID-19 restrictions, the course will instead be delivered via ZOOM.

All courses can also be delivered at Local Government premises so as to reduce travel time and costs to Council. To request a quote, please email [training@walga.asn.au](mailto:training@walga.asn.au).

- Dealing with Conflict
- Effective Community Leadership
- Planning Practices - Essentials
- Planning Practices - Advanced
- CEO Performance Appraisal
- Strategic Decision Making (IPR)
- Strategic Policy Development
- Oversee Local Government Asset Management
- Professionally Speaking
- Record Keeping for Elected Members (1.5 hr via ZOOM)
- Emergency Management for Local Government Leaders
- Emergency Management for Local Government
- Community Disaster Recovery for Local Government
- The Role of Mayors and Presidents
- Procurement in Local Government - The Basics (eLearning)

For more details please visit the WALGA website [www.walga.asn.au/training](http://www.walga.asn.au/training) or download a copy of the 2022 Training and Professional Development Directory.



# FEB/MAR AROUND THE STATE IN PICTURES

The following pictures celebrate the achievements of Local Government in Western Australia. Any WA Local Government that has held an event or function and wants to have it featured in Western Councillor is encouraged to contact the *WALGA Communications Team* via email: [communications@walga.asn.au](mailto:communications@walga.asn.au)

## ARMADALE

The City of Armadale recently unveiled its high spec skate park at Gwynne Park. Ideas from local youth were included in the development of the exciting new youth facility offering riders of varying skill levels a range of elements, including a pump bump, volcano, A-frame with rail, flat rail, manual pad, slappy bank, a variety of ledges, stair set with down/across rails, horseshoe bowl and more.



## AUGUSTA MARGARET RIVER

A six-point recovery plan has been developed to support the recovery and ongoing management of Boranup Forest and the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park. These areas, which have high environmental, economic, social and cultural value, sustained significant damage in the Calgardup fires last December. The six-point plan has been co-signed by Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association Chair Stuart Hicks, Margaret River Wine Industry Association CEO Amanda Whiteland, Augusta Margaret River Shire President Paula Cristoffanini, Wadandi Elder and Undalup Aboriginal Association representative Dr Wayne Webb, and Nature Conservation Margaret River Region Chair Dr Ann Ward (not pictured).



## BAYSWATER

The City of Bayswater recently celebrated the completion of the new sports stadium at Morley Sport and Recreation Centre. The \$6.7 million redevelopment features a new sports hall with two basketball courts, change rooms and toilets to service users of the hall and external sporting fields. Wireless scoreboards, adjustable hoops for junior and senior basketball, LED match lighting and sprung floor make it a high-quality facility for clubs and the community. In 2022, the City plans to reconfigure parking around Pat O'Hara Reserve to provide additional bays, add spectator seating for the new courts, and install solar panels on the roof of the new stadium.

Pictured: City of Bayswater Mayor Filomena Piffaretti and Councillors, with Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA, East Perth District Basketball Association Managing Director Tim Symons, committee members and players.

## BROOME

The Broome community got into the festive spirit in mid-December as the Shire's Christmas Trails event was held in the recently revitalised Chinatown precinct

A much-loved outing on the Shire's events calendar, Broome's town centre was transformed into a Christmas hub.

The Shire collaborated with local businesses and service providers to host a well-attended community focused event, with attendees including Olympian Peter Bol and Santa Claus!



## BUNBURY

Beam e-scooters returned to Bunbury's streets recently and it's created a real buzz around the CBD. These fun, purple scooters provide a fun, affordable, convenient and environmentally friendly way to visit the City's amazing attractions and local businesses. The app-based service features affordable, pay-as-you-go rates for a fleet of e-scooters to be located at prominent Bunbury locations including Dolphin Discovery Centre, Jetty Baths, Bunbury Regional Art Gallery and along Ocean Drive.



## BUSSELTON

City of Busselton representatives and other key stakeholders gathered to celebrate the break-ground of the new Busselton Entertainment Arts and Culture Hub yesterday. Mayor Grant Henley joined representatives from Broad Construction and Rio Tinto to applaud the commencement of construction for the \$38 million project located on Queen Street in Busselton's town centre. The hub is due for completion in 2023, creating local job opportunities.

## CANNING

The City of Canning Business Mentoring Program is back and in search of local individuals and businesses to create new business success stories. The program partners with Perth's best practice mentoring organisations to offer mentoring solutions for business at all stages of their business journey. There are five programs on offer under the themes of seed, start, sprint, scale and sustain.

For more information visit  
[www.canning.wa.gov.au/cbmp](http://www.canning.wa.gov.au/cbmp)



## CAPEL

Murray Scott has been awarded Honorary Freeman of the Shire of Capel. Murray is a former Shire President and Councillor, having been first elected to Council in 1993. He served as Shire President from 2001 – 2019. He has been part of the Elgin Bush Fire Brigade for over 50 years and has dedicated most of his lifetime to serving and protecting the community. Murray was presented the Freemanship by President Doug Kitchen and joined by his wife Megan. This is the first Freemanship to be awarded in over 12 years.

Pictured: Murray Scott, Shire President Doug Kitchen and Megan Scott.



## CARNARVON

The Shire of Carnarvon celebrated its very first function to recognise the dedication of its employees, with special mention to 24 employees that have provided a combined 268 years serving the Shire and Community.

Shire President, Eddie Smith was present to congratulate each recipient along with CEO, Andrea Selvey and Councillors and it was a great day for the whole team to celebrate the achievement of its team members.

Pictured: Back Row, L-R: Peter Campbell, John Abreu, Brian Moore, Dave Appleby, David Nielson, Kieran Coomey. Front Row, L-R: CEO Andrea Selvey, Stephanie Leca, Marisa Reid, Carolien Claassens, Kathy Donald, Renee Williamson

## COCKBURN

A bridge over Cockburn Central's traffic congestion has now opened. City of Cockburn Mayor Logan Howlett attended a ribbon-cutting with Transport Minister Rita Saffioti in Cockburn Central on 15 December 2021, heralding completion of the \$259m Armadale Road to North Lake Road Bridge. Improving traffic flow at Perth's third most congested intersection, the project was a culmination of joint efforts by Cockburn and neighbouring Armadale that began in 2016-17, campaigning for Federal and State funds to duplicate 6.9km of Armadale Road, completed in late 2019.



## COOLGARDIE

Shire of Coolgardie Australia Day Award winners from left to right, Kambalda St John Sub Centre, Pit Bull Services, Karin Karafilis, Quirky Quilters, Haylee Keast and Tracey Rathbone at the Kambalda Aquatic Facility.



## COTTESLOE

The Town of Cottesloe received a grant from the WA Police State Graffiti Community Fund to paint a mural as a graffiti prevention strategy. Aboriginal artist and Wadjuk man Justin Martin of Djurandi Dreaming was commissioned to paint the mural on the back of a tennis wall at a local reserve. Justin held workshops with local primary students which were used as inspiration for this colourful and meaningful mural that the community now enjoys.

## DERBY/WEST KIMBERLEY

120 people attended this year's Australia Day Breakfast at the Sportsmen's Club in Derby. It was a fantastic day all round with four Shire of Derby/West Kimberley community members taking their pledges and officially becoming Australian citizens. The Shire's Citizen of the Year award winners were also announced.

Pictured: Shire of Derby/West Kimberley President Geoff Haerewa with recipients of the Citizen of the Year award.



## DONNYBROOK -BALINGUP

The Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup kicked off 2022 with the opening of their state-of-the-art Pump Track. Located directly across from the award-winning Apple Fun Park and Goods Shed Precinct, the Egan Park site includes a pump track, skills loop, learn to ride track and play nodes, as well as a half court. The project was made possible thanks to funding from the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Federal Program.

## DUMBLEYUNG

The Shire of Dumbleyung together with Wuddi Cultural Tours co-hosted an extremely successful Australia Day Extravaganza event in Dumbleyung. The event showcased and celebrated local and State Aboriginal culture and talent including music (didgeridoo & tap sticks), dancing, smoking ceremony, arts, food and storytelling. An evening event was also conducted with Narrogin band 'Drinks & Tips' playing to a picnic under the stars format.



## EXMOUTH

The Australia Day Celebrations at Exmouth's Paltridge Memorial Swimming Pool are a highlight for the whole community. More than 230 people attended this year's free event and enjoyed the recreational facility. Shire President Darlene Allston also conducted a citizenship ceremony and welcomed two Exmouth residents as Australian citizens.

## FREMANTLE

Sunday, 12 December last year marked the opening of the City of Fremantle's Walyalup Civic Centre. Designed by Fremantle's own Kerry Hill Architects, the new building has a stunning new library, modern customer service centre and impressive council chamber. The City has also rejuvenated the public spaces around Walyalup Koort, including the new Fremantle-themed playground featuring cranes, bridges, train tracks and shipping containers as well as natural elements like water and trees.

Pictured: The new Walyalup Civic Centre and Walyalup Koort Playground.



## GERALDTON

The City of Greater Geraldton partnered with local Yamatji Naaguja man, Derek Councillor to incorporate a Smoking Ceremony in welcoming new citizens as part of the City's Australia Day. This respectful and inclusive event also featured the Wilinyu Dancers under the direction of Jilkamarta Keesha Forrest Pananka, who opened the main stage and were a particular highlight for everyone in attendance.



## GINGIN

Gingin is the largest of the Shire of Gingin's five towns and this year it turned 150 which makes it one of WA's oldest rural communities. In partnership with the community, Council and staff put on a celebration event to encourage new visitors to the region and to showcase Gingin's local food and beverages, history, lost trades, a market village, a popular billy cart race, live entertainment, village games and a huge fireworks display to conclude the event in the evening. An estimated 5000 to 7000 people attended the 150th anniversary celebration which was a wonderful example of Council and community partnership. Photo courtesy Bev King



## GNOWANGERUP

The Gnowangerup Community Citizen of the Year awards were held on Australia Day at a community breakfast. The well-deserved winners were: Community Citizen of the Year – Robyn Crabbe for her work within the Gnowangerup Community, in her role as Chair of Gnowangerup St John Ambulance. Gnowangerup St John Ambulance received the Active Citizenship award for their fantastic ambulance service provided to the Gnowangerup community.



## GOSNELLS

Hundreds of people celebrated the Lunar New Year in the Gosnells Town Square with plenty of colour and excitement. Activities included lion dancing, lantern making, calligraphy and family entertainment. Local community groups shared their culture with live traditional performances, while the crowds were fed by food trucks and authentic cuisine from a nearby Chinese restaurant.



## HARVEY

The start of the construction of the Yarloop Workshops first stage was officially marked in January by turning the sod. The Yarloop Workshops were an integral part of the community and the local area's heritage which was destroyed in the devastating 2016 Yarloop-Waroona bushfires. The first stage of the project will focus on the rebuilding of the steam workshops, a men's shed and landscaping, restoration of the existing vault, as well as headworks and services supply to the site.

## JERRAMUNGUP

More than 150 people gathered to reflect, respect and celebrate at the Shire of Jerramungup annual Australia Day event. There were lots of smiling faces as families enjoyed the free event which included breakfast, coffees, a seven-metre-tall giant waterslide, soft serve ice-creams, live music and more! This event was assisted by the Australian Government through the National Australia Day Council.



## JOONDALUP

Work begins on Chichester Park Redevelopment. Joondalup Mayor Albert Jacob joined Central Ward Councillor Christopher May and Kingsley MLA Jessica Stojkovski to turn the first sod of soil and officially commence construction on the \$5.6m Chichester Park Community Sporting Facility in Woodvale. The new facility will better meet the needs of five sporting clubs with more than 1300 registered users. The City received \$400,000 through the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund towards the overall project cost.



## KALAMUNDA

Works have officially started on the Central Mall redevelopment in Kalamunda.

Mayor Margaret Thomas said that the project formed is one of the key components of the City's Activity Centre Plan and will deliver a vibrant experience that supports both day and night-time activities. The project will deliver a new pedestrian focused shared space streetscape creating new people gathering areas. Additional trees and innovative lighting systems will activate the Central Mall, providing opportunities for local businesses to grow and creating a space where additional events can safely be held.

## KALGOORLIE

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder entertained the community this Australia Day with a dazzling performance by tribute band Pinked at the first instalment of the Sunset at the Soundshell concert series. Warming up the audience, aerial performer Katelyn Ann and acoustic duo Crazy Little Strings showcased stellar home-grown talent. Following on, frontwoman Sabrina Davies stunned the audience with her spot-on impersonation of both Lady Gaga and P!nk at the evening concert.



## KARRATHA

The 2022 Australia Day festivities commenced with the annual City of Karratha, Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony Breakfast. 20 nominations were received across six award categories with winners announced at the breakfast, hosted by the City of Karratha, and supported by the Australian Government through Australia Day Council, Rio Tinto, Pilbara Ports Authority and Woodside-operated North West Shelf Project. The Awards provided an opportunity to thank and formally recognise these individuals who tirelessly give back to the community.



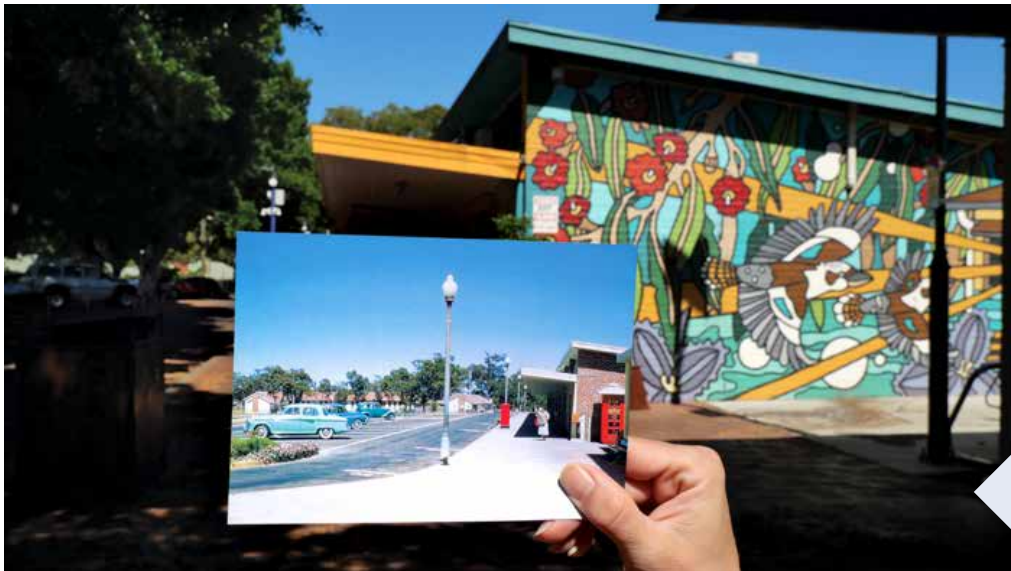
## KELLERBERRIN

The Shire of Kellerberrin held the annual Australia Day breakfast and awards ceremony with plenty of activities for all to enjoy. The kids were able to enjoy a morning full of fun and games with goody bags upon arrival, bouncy castles, twin sliders, face painting & giant floor games. The Kellerberrin Memorial Swimming Pool was open to the public with free entry, BBQ lunch and the blow up obstacle course. The afternoon was spent playing community cricket with the evening festivities continuing at the Kellerberrin and Districts Club with a sponsored dinner, live music and a professional photographer to capture the day.

## KULIN

An exciting new community space has been created in Kulin. A skate park, pump track and hangout zone have been installed in the main street and is a hive of activity. The completion of Stage One of the All-Ages Precinct is a fantastic attraction for locals and visitors. The area will be completed later this year a Ninja Warrior course being installed as part of Stage Two of the project.





## KWINANA

The City of Kwinana is working with the local community to make Medina an even better place to live, and this #KwinanaNowAndThen capture shows how far it's already come.

The shops on Pace Road were enlivened with vibrant murals by Melissa McVee in 2017 and Moreton Bay fig trees filled the space over the years.

The featured historical photo was taken by James St Jack who was a Police Sergeant in Medina in the late 1950s.

## LAKE GRACE

For over 20 years, the Australia Day Breakfast at the Lake Grace Swimming Pool has been hosted by the Lions Club of Lake Grace, and this year is no different. The recipients of the Australian Citizen and the Senior Citizen awards received certificates for their contributions to the many projects that benefit the community of Lake Grace.



## MANJIMUP

The Shire of Manjimup has been recognised and congratulated by Dementia Australia for its role in "working towards dementia friendly in 2021/2022". The Shire has shown ongoing investment in the training and capabilities development of staff beyond foundational dementia awareness and understanding and has been commended for its conducting of regular audits of public spaces and buildings to improve accessibility and wayfinding.

Pictured: Councillors Eiby and Lawrence at the dementia friendly community certificate presentation from Dementia Australia.



## MERREDIN

The Shire of Merredin proudly presented the 2022 Auspire Community Citizen of the Year awards at Merredin's Australia Day Breakfast. Congratulations to Citizen of the Year Tyler Winter, Senior Citizen of the Year Jane Patroni, Youth Citizen of the Year Maddie Earle-Sadler and Active Citizenship winner Petticoat Lane, who all share the spirit of patience and persistence and remind us that we are at our best when we work together.



## MOORA

Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians, Ken Wyatt AM MP visited Moora and spent the day touring the region, meeting with Yued Elders and emerging Yued leaders.

Pictured: Fred Mogridge, Charlee Borinelli, Kelly Prior, Minister Ken Wyatt, June Hedland, Shire President Tracy Lefroy and Madeline Anderson.

## MUKINBUDIN

The weather was perfect, and Australia Day 2022 was a fantastic family day out. We began at the Aquatic Centre with Paul and Air-Borne Amusements and the Dunk Tank was very popular. The Bombie Competition and the Hammer-Head pool inflatable were also a hit. Community members moved to the Town Oval where children were given sausages and a voucher for a free Creamy Cow ice cream. The DIY BBQ was a success, with everyone able to cook their own meat. Next the Citizen awards were presented in a typical Aussie setting. A talented, local band concluded the event. The day was a real Community and Shire team effort, which was funded by the National Australia Day Council.



## NORTHAM

Along with Shire of Northam residents, Shire President Cr Chris Antonio gathered to reflect on our national journey this Australia Day at the very special Stargazing Picnic facilitated by Stargazing WA. Attendees were given a free picnic box and encouraged to bring blankets and binoculars to this event which included a laser guided tour of the night sky and stories that have been told for generations.

Northam's newest member of the white swan colony made an appearance to the delight of locals and visitors alike. The new kid on the block will join Sid, Gretel, Lucy, Romeo, Nic, Faith and Tybalt as they inhabit the beautiful Northam Town Pool of the Avon River.

## PINGELLY

The Shire of Pingelly has recently opened the redeveloped Memorial Park, transformed from a car park into a place where the community remembers those that fell in war and where new memories are created with our children and grandchildren. This transformation includes the installation of park equipment such as benches and BBQs, play equipment for all ages, toilets, WIFI, a market space and amphitheatre for the community and visitors passing through.



## RAVENSTHORPE

The Shire of Ravensthorpe was excited to reinstate an important part of the Hopetoun community's nod to the substantial and generous input of one of its most loved and well-known community members, Jim McCulloch. This Park is a hugely important and much used feature of the town. Jim McCulloch worked tirelessly to improve and add value to Hopetoun. The family was on hand to celebrate.

Pictured: Shire President Keith Dunlop, Rod Dawe, Enid Tink, Lynnette Daw and Acting Chief Executive Officer Gary Clark.



## ROCKINGHAM

The City of Rockingham has completed work on the first part of the Mersey Point Granite Seawall project in Shoalwater. The City replaced the existing limestone seawall and timber beach stairs with a new 325m granite seawall and steel beach stairs. Full funding for the \$2.04 million project was secured through the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

Pictured: Mayor Deb Hamblin at the new granite seawall.

## SERPENTINE JARRAHDALE

The Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale celebrated its community champions at the annual Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony on 26 January 2022. The awards comprise of four categories Citizen of the Year Awards, which recognise the community members and groups who go above and beyond for the benefit of the community. The Shire also welcomed 29 new citizens from nine different countries at its Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony.



## SHARK BAY

The first ever Shark Bay Downwinder event took place in Denham in January. The event included a 10km friendly downwinder race, a 40km downwinder race, a celebration ceremony and a wind and water festival fun day. Over 40 people took part in the event on kite, wing and windsurfers, kayaks, and stand-up paddleboards, with winds reaching 50kms per hour. After this year's success, the event will return in 2023.

Image courtesy Nick Thake Photography and the Shark Bay Business and Tourism Association.

## SUBIACO

Back for its 34th year, the free sunset@subi outdoor concert series helped locals make the most of balmy summer evenings. Held across a number of the City of Subiaco's beautiful parks, this year's concerts covered a range of genres from pop and 70s and 80s nostalgia to country music, and everything in between. There was no shortage of picnics, laughs, singing or dancing!



## SWAN

It was a day of Aussie pride as the City of Swan welcomed 70 new Australian citizens from 18 countries as part of its dinky-di Australia Day Citizenship ceremony on January 26. The City also awarded six local champions across four categories in the Community Citizen of the Year Awards for their valuable efforts in making our community a better place to live.

## TAMMIN

The Shire of Tammin's Memorial Park was filled with community members on Australia Day 2022 to celebrate a significant day in Australia's history and to unveil the new and beautifully designed war memorial commemorating local service personnel from WWII and ensuing conflicts. The Tammin RSL were able to complete this project after the Shire of Tammin were awarded a grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Saluting their Service Program.



## VICTORIA PARK

Welcoming pedestrians to both the Town of Victoria Park and the Year of the Tiger, Matagarup Bridge is illuminated in red to celebrate the Lunar New Year. A multicultural population and one of Perth's highest concentrations of restaurants and eateries make Victoria Park a popular hub for New Year festivities - in 2022, the celebrations included lion dances, a lantern walk and a horoscope trail.

Pictured: The Matagarup Bridge in the Town of Victoria Park.



## WANDERING

Another successful Australia Day was held at the Shire of Wandering Community Centre this year. The weather was perfect for this event which included face painting and balloon animals for the kids (and some adults) and breaky cooked on the barbie in true Australian style!

## WANNEROO

Over 550 people from 60 countries were welcomed as citizens at the City of Wanneroo's Australia Day citizenship event. With COVID-safe measures in place, the City was privileged to confer citizenship on the most people of any Local Government in Western Australia on 26 January. The ceremonies featured a Welcome to Country and didgeridoo performance by Noongar Elders Richard Walley and Dennis Simmons.

Pictured: Mayor Tracey Roberts with Noongar Elder Dennis Simmons.



## WAROONA

Shire of Waroona Chief Executive Officer Mark Goodlet and Shire President Mike Walmsley tested out the new electric barbecues at the Drakesbrook Weir which are now operational due to the much-anticipated installation of power. These upgrades have unfortunately seen several unforeseen delays. The upgrades included power installation, new barbecues and lighting which will enhance this spectacular location residents and visitors of Waroona to enjoy.

## YORK

On Saturday 29 January, the community came together to recognise and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Peoples' histories and cultures, ensuring they are appropriately acknowledged in a way relevant to our local community. The Ballardong Boodja Day was developed and organised by York's local Aboriginal Elders and residents with support from the National Australia Day Council and the Shire of York. A highlight of the event was the performance by the Mooditj Koolalingas Choir who sing in language. The event also featured bush tucker tastings, tool making, indigo face painting plus arts and crafts.

Pictured: Mooditj Koolalingas Choir



# 2022 SPOTLIGHTS LOCAL GOVERNMENT RISKS – CYBER, CLIMATE AND PANDEMIC

By Jonathan Seth, CEO, LGIS



2022 has started with a bang – managing and living with COVID is becoming a reality and we've been at the mercy of Mother Nature with sweltering days and terrible bushfires. Unfortunately we've not had the reprieve many of us hoped for.

LGIS members have battled terrible bushfires across the Great Southern, South West and Wheatbelt regions. Thousands of hectares have been destroyed and damaged is being assessed.

I've recently returned from a visit to Bridgetown, whenever I have the privilege of seeing members in the aftermath of an emergency I am always impressed by their stoicism, resilience and strong community focus.

The LGIS team have been quick to assist where we can. Our Regional Risk Coordinators have been on the ground providing advice and support while loss adjusters are quantifying the damage so that we can start rebuilding as soon as possible. The LGIS claims team have spoken to all of our affected members.

Our members' bushfire volunteers, protected by LGIS, have been vital – working with emergency services to save lives and properties. The LGIS counselling service has been extended to all bushfire volunteers to support them during this stressful time.

Our thoughts are with our members and the residents in their communities who have been impacted by the fires. LGIS will continue to assist and support our members in rebuilding and repairing their community facilities so that they can get on with the job of serving their ratepayers.

## MARKET UPDATE

The Q4 2021 results show that the hard market is continuing, although some of the heat seems to be coming out, confirms this trend. The current cycle is known as a "hard market" where insurers tend to withdraw capacity or increase rates and limit covers.

According to the Marsh Global Insurance Market Index, which measures its global commercial insurance premium pricing change at renewal and represents the world's major insurance markets, the following trends have occurred:

- global commercial insurance prices rose 13% p.a in the third

quarter of 2021, this is a slight dip from the previous period but still significant, and

- geographically, the UK, with a composite pricing increase of 22%, the US with 14% and the Pacific region, with a 13% increase, drove the global composite rate.
- It is important to note that reported pricing changes are averages and that the data used to estimate the changes cover a wide range of clients in terms of size, industry, location, claims history, and other parameters.
- Property insurance pricing increased by a further 8% on average but pressure remains for assets in catastrophe risk zones (earthquake, cyclone, bushfire, flood, hail etc.).
- Liability insurance pricing rose by a further 15%.
- Financial and professional classes rose substantially 31% with 18 consecutive quarters of double digit increases and capacity continued to tighten.
- Cyber premiums increased dramatically, capacity shrunk and many programs were unable to purchase historical limits. In some instances premiums increased between 60-80%

In 2022 we are impacted by the increased frequency of large catastrophic claims that have pushed increases in annual average losses. Results for 2020 have nearly closed and it's predicted to be the fourth year since 2011 that has seen significant insured losses in excess of \$USD 100 Billion.

In a hardening insurance market, it is a timely reminder of the benefit of belonging to a mutual as it continues to provide the WA local government sector with stable contributions, delivering outstanding value for money and financial stability.

## LGIS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Renewal declarations were released in early February with the first, Cyber, due to be returned on 15 March.

Account managers are now visiting members to discuss the surveys and your risk profile at pre-renewal meetings, covering the key risks that have been identified through LGIS assessments and the data provided to us. It is vital that renewal survey questions are completed promptly and accurately given to ensure timely renewal.

LGIS continues to respond proactively through the risk services team and regional risk program in assisting our members address risk and mitigation strategies.

If you have any questions please contact me on **9483 8855** or talk to your LGIS account manager.

## ADVERTORIAL

# SYNERGY AND WALGA DEMONSTRATING SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP

In November 2021, the three Government owned electricity businesses Synergy, Horizon Power and Western Power released a joint commitment to address climate change in support of the Western Australian State Government's commitment to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

According to Synergy Account Manager Bec Elshaw, as Synergy works towards its own net zero target, they are helping climate-conscious customers, including a number of local government authorities, explore innovative new ways to reduce their carbon emissions.

"At Synergy, we're continuing to explore renewable energy facilities such as our wind farms, and finding ways to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases emitted by displacing the use of fossil fuels from our electricity generation," she said.

"We're also helping our customers to address their own net zero goals. One example is through our NaturalPower product, which a number of our LGA customers have already adopted to meet their energy goals and reduce their carbon footprint."

Synergy would like to congratulate WALGA on their commitment to sustainable energy. Forty-eight WALGA Members, which includes almost all the Perth metropolitan local government councils have signed up to a three-year supply contract that offsets a percentage of their electricity supply with electricity produced from renewable sources.

This project partnership lays the groundwork for future sustainability initiatives.

### HOW NATURALPOWER WORKS

Synergy offers the NaturalPower product, which is accredited under Australia's GreenPower program, to both commercial and residential customers. By choosing NaturalPower, Synergy customers can offset all, or a percentage,

of their electricity consumption with renewable energy sources.

"For councils looking for new ways to make their operations more sustainable, NaturalPower could be a simple way to help reduce your carbon footprint," she said.

"When you choose NaturalPower through your Synergy account, you pay slightly more than your usual business plan, and we buy large-scale generation certificates (or LGCs) on your behalf. These LGCs are from nationally-accredited GreenPower renewable energy sources which have to meet strict criteria."

Synergy's Albany wind farm, a joint venture with Bright Energy investments, is an accredited energy supplier for the GreenPower program. The Albany wind farm is estimated to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions by 65,000 tonnes per annum. That's equivalent to taking nearly 15,000 cars from our roads for one year.

### THE IMPACT OF NATURALPOWER

Ms Elshaw noted that it's important for customers to understand that choosing NaturalPower doesn't guarantee that the actual electricity running into their premises is from renewable sources in the same way solar power might work. Instead, it ensures that the

percentage chosen will be sourced from renewable sources.

"For a local government authority, your council facilities will still be powered by a mix of sources but your contribution supports Australia's renewable energy industry and promotes renewables in the network."

"We're here to make sure choosing a more environmentally friendly option for your council is a seamless process.

The only change you'll see by investing in NaturalPower is a slight difference on your bill, the size of which will depend on the percentage of NaturalPower you choose. Since the percentage you choose comes from renewable energy in the grid, there is no interruption to your service."

Based on the 2020-2021 National Greenhouse Account Factors\* (NGAF), WALGA estimates the total carbon abatement of the 48 members to be approximately 150,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> over the three year life of the contract. This can also be calculated as the equivalent carbon sequestration of 35 million blue mallee eucalyptus trees.

\* The NGAF are published by the Department of Industry, more information can be found at [www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/national-greenhouse-accounts-factors-2021](http://www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/national-greenhouse-accounts-factors-2021)

**For more information, please contact Bec Elshaw at [bec.elshaw@synergy.net.au](mailto:bec.elshaw@synergy.net.au) or 6212 2257.**



**A simple way to reach  
your green goals.**

If your business is going greener, one of the simplest things you can do is choose green energy. Join other businesses by choosing one of our green energy options – and together we'll all power a brighter future for WA.

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## ELECTED MEMBER PROFILE

# PRESIDENT CR CHERYL COWELL

SHIRE OF SHARK BAY



Shire of Shark Bay Councillor, Cheryl Cowell, has served on the Shire's Council for over 14 years, 12 years in the role of Shire President. Cr Cowell has been a WALGA State Councillor, representing the Gascoyne Country Zone for seven years and sits on WALGA State Council Governance and Organisational Services Policy team.

### WHAT IS YOUR "DAY JOB" AND HOW DOES IT RELATE TO YOUR ROLE AS AN ELECTED MEMBER?

I have previously held finance and administrative positions overseas and with the WA Institute of Technology (now Curtin University), followed by 15 years with Department of Agriculture in Kununurra, prior to moving to Shark Bay.

For the past 26 years, I was employed with State Government (although externally funded by the Commonwealth Government), in the position of Project Officer, Shark Bay World Heritage, which also included the role of Executive Officer for the World Heritage Property Advisory Committee. Hence, my continuing passion for preservation of our State's pristine environment generally and for the maintenance of the unique UNESCO World Heritage Listed values of Shark Bay in particular.

There are many similarities between World Heritage and Local Government philosophies in that it is a goal of both to produce many benefits for local communities, including increases in employment opportunities and income, improved planning, strengthening of management and improving interpretation and visitor facilities, whilst also cultivating local pride and developing feelings of responsibility to protect the local area and environment.

### WHAT SAW YOU BEGIN A CAREER IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SECTOR?

The Shark Bay Shire is large in area and small in population, with less than 1,000 permanent residents in 25,000km<sup>2</sup>, although indigenous people have been here over many thousands of years, as evidenced by archeological records. Shark Bay has also been visited by a significant number of European explorers over many years, commencing with the first recorded (on a pewter plate) landing on Australian soil by Dutch Captain Dirk Hartog at Cape Inscription on Dirk Hartog Island in October 1616. The first pastoralists arrived during the 1860s and pearlers in the 1870s.

UNESCO World Heritage Listing of Shark Bay occurred in December 1991 (the first in WA) and I commenced in the World Heritage role in mid-1995, when the Bay was still quite isolated, with some locals keen to preserve that status, including members of the local shire council. I was conscripted by my then District Manager to attend Shire Council meetings in his absence and it was obvious that only perceived negative aspects to the Listing were being

promoted to the locals by the Shire President and his supporters, whilst potential benefits to the community were not.

My observer/reporting role at these meetings was the catalyst that set me on the path of representing my local community and ensuring that its members were provided with unbiased and factual information regarding, projects, proposals, progress, etc. to enable them to form opinions and make informed decisions on potential issues and actions which would affect them. I subsequently stood successfully as a candidate at the next Local Government election and have maintained an open and accessible communication policy with all my constituents, since becoming a Councillor.

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#### **HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT? HOW HAS THE SECTOR CHANGED/ EVOLVED OVER THE YEARS?**

I've been involved in Local Government politics for the past 14 years and experienced many changes during that period, both positive and negative. More responsibilities and decision-making processes have been passed from State to Local Government during that time, which in turn has raised expectations of increased services and delivery. However, the additional funding to meet these demands is rarely forthcoming.

I believe the majority of changes and reforms to the Local Government Act currently being considered by State Government will be beneficial to the entire Local Government Sector, as although issues such as accountability, disruptive behaviours, integrity of councillors, etc. continue to occur from the minority, it is the reputation of the whole sector which is affected.

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#### **CAN YOU DESCRIBE SOME OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES YOU'VE FACED DURING YOUR TIME AS AN ELECTED MEMBER?**

Working full-time, in addition to my Local Government commitments, including Chair of Local Emergency Management Committee, member of the Gascoyne Development Commission Board (previously for six years and currently for an additional three years) and Chair of the GDC Audit and Risk Committee, plus my WALGA roles, was a challenge at times and definitely honed my organisational skills! So, I am looking forward to a slightly less hectic schedule in the future, hopefully!

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#### **CAN YOU EXPLAIN THE REGION YOU WORK IN AND SOME OF THE ADVANTAGES AND CHALLENGES OF WORKING IN THIS REGION?**

The Gascoyne Region encompasses four shires – Shark Bay, Carnarvon, Upper Gascoyne and Exmouth, so one of the obvious challenges is the tyranny of distances between each Local Government and the amount of travel time to attend in-person meetings, forums, etc. I've certainly clocked up a significant number of flying hours in light aircraft during my time as a

councillor and had some 'interesting' take-offs and landings at remote locations and in dubious weather conditions.

Tourism is the main economic driver for the Gascoyne Region, with mining and pastoral operations also occurring in all four shires. Shark Bay and Exmouth (Ningaloo Coast) also have synergies as both are World Heritage Listed properties, with the added goal of maintaining a balance between the attraction for tourism of a pristine environment and the challenge of increasing economic development. The four shires work collegiately and collaborate where practicable on projects to achieve mutual goals across the Gascoyne, which is definitely a positive advantage of working within this Region.

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#### **WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR PROUDEST ACHIEVEMENT WHILST WORKING IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT?**

From a physical perspective, the transition of the 'fishing village' of Denham, as it largely was when I arrived in 1995, to the amazing foreshore and facilities that we have today, has been an achievement that everyone associated with the 2016 Dirk Hartog 400 Year Celebrations and Royalties for Regions funded projects, can be proud of.

The amount of Royalty for Regions funding that a small shire such as Shark Bay was able to secure during the R4R funding period and the innovative and progressive projects and infrastructure that resulted, with all projects completed on time and on budget, was a great achievement by all concerned that I am proud to have been associated with.

Shark Bay has always been a very inclusive community – crime and social issues are practically non-existent and there is genuine concern for each other, regardless of creed or colour, however, the level of participation and willingness to be involved in the preparations and events of the 2016 Celebrations, inspired a very high level of community pride, which is still evident today.

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#### **WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR SOMEONE WISHING TO BECOME AN ELECTED MEMBER?**

If your first priority is to work together with members of your local community to enhance and improve their lifestyle, then definitely put your hand up for the job, because it's at the Local Government level that these goals can be achieved. You won't be able to please all the people, all the time, so it can be challenging, but also very rewarding when the majority of the community express appreciation for the positive impacts your efforts have contributed to their overall wellbeing.

I'd suggest that some research into the Local Government Act and legislation is undertaken prior to making any promises to potential constituents about solutions for their 'issues', as the complexities of Local Government regulations and processes are largely unknown to the general public and although expectations are high, new councillors are often unable to deliver on their pledges to electors due to existing legislative and regulatory constraints.

# THE PEOPLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

By Dr Chris Berry



Dr. Chris Berry

As part of an ongoing feature to celebrate 150 years of Local Government, Dr Chris Berry shares the next biography in his 'Hall of Fame' of key people influencing the sector since its inception.

## **HUMPHERY PARK OAM: COUNCILLOR, CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONER**

The Local Government sector today probably takes the existence of WALGA somewhat for granted. But WALGA was only established in 2001, replacing the Western Australian Municipal Association formed in 1989. The honour board at WALGA's headquarters acknowledges GH Park as (first) Chairman of WAMA. Who was this GH Park?

GH (Humphery) Park was one of the founding statesman of WAMA. I have known Humphery, a man of warmth and wisdom, for more than 30 years. He made a stellar contribution to Local Government in WA, and while he is held in high regard by all who know him, his contribution deserves to be more widely known.

Humphery Park grew up in the Kojonup district, eventually settling at Bullsbrook. A 19th century ancestor had served as the Lord Mayor of London, and he carried on with distinction that family tradition of Local Government service.

While always maintaining a strong interest in the farming sector, Local Government long remained his major focus. He was first elected as a councillor to the Shire of Swan in 1979, serving until 1991, including a period as Deputy Shire President. The Shire appointed him an Honorary Freeman in 1991. But his service went well beyond Swan, after being appointed as council delegate to the Local Government Association of WA (LGA), where he held office as Executive Member, Deputy President and President (1988–1990).

He was LGA President during the crucial time that the formation of WAMA was negotiated. At this stage there were three separate associations of Local Government. There had been discussion of a single association for years, but the separate associations could never come to agreement on a model structure to take forward. The associations cooperated through a liaison committee, with the LGA's Park elected as committee chairman in 1987. Park championed the LGA position of a single association by suggesting a substantial delegation of powers to the liaison committee as a first step. The Country Shire Councils Association (CSCA) resolved to support certain delegations, and a joint committee developed a proposal for reference back to councils.

The Local Government Liaison Committee changed its name to the Western Australian Municipal Association Committee in expectation that a single secretariat would be operating by June 1990. Given the long history of the associations, it was a bold step. The new association, which would be an association of associations, would have a critical role in providing a combined voice for Local Government at a governmental and political level. A strong unified voice on issues of common concern (with the means for minority groups to express dissenting views) and a better resourced organisation to carry out its political function were seen as major benefits for member councils. The Western Australian Municipal Association, described as a 'bottoms up' organisation, was thus formed with the agreement of the three associations in 1989. Humphery Park was the first chairman of the executive committee, while Bruce Donaldson was the first president.

Humphery Park had an interest in Local Government funding as well. First appointed as a deputy member to the WA Local Government Grants Commission in 1983, he was a member from 1990. He was Commission chairman from 1992 and 2001, the longest any individual has served in that role. The author, as executive officer to the Commission in this period, knew Humphery to be a keen advocate for equalisation who always sought to improve the methodology, often thinking through the issues

while driving his tractor and then calling me up to talk his ideas through.

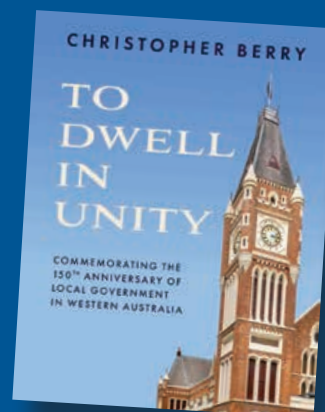
Humphery was a lateral thinker and innovator; on a Commission visit to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands he suggested that the council construct local roads with locally made bricks, rather than import expensive bitumen. In the mid-eighties, while serving as a Local Government representative on a committee for the Commonwealth's Jobs on Local Roads Program, Humphery suggested an innovative project which measured and categorised the state's local road network, the first project of this type, laying the foundations for the asset preservation model.

He served in other important roles as well. He was respected on both sides of politics; appointed as Commission chairman by Labor Minister David Smith, who also appointed him to a panel investigating governance at the City of Canning in 1991. He was appointed by Liberal Minister Paul Omodei as a Commissioner when the City of Perth was split into four Local Governments in 1993. Along with four other commissioners, he helped lay the foundation for the new entities until the new councils were elected in May 1995.

Paul Omodei also appointed Humphery Park as Chairman of the Structural Reform Advisory Committee in 1994. Given his ongoing interest in how Local Government might operate more efficiently and effectively, the Committee focused on the question which is still relevant: What is the best way to organise the council's physical, financial and human resources to achieve a competitive and productive organisation? The SRAC report, *Advancing Local Government in Western Australia*, was the first in more than 20 years to examine the state of Local Government with recommendations for the future.

Humphery received various awards in recognition of his service, including the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1993, but it was fitting for him to be also awarded life membership of the Western Australian Municipal Association.

Still serving the community, Humphery was a member of the North Swan Land Conservation District Committee from 2003 through to 2021. He is still active today in his 90s in grazing cattle on his Bullsbrook property. Humphery Park can truly be regarded as one of the founding fathers of the modern single association that is WALGA.



## **TO DWELL IN UNITY – CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Dr Chris Berry's book *To Dwell in Unity*, celebrating the sesquicentenary of the Local Government sector was launched at the WALGA Convention Gala Dinner held on Monday, 19 September 2021 at Optus Stadium.

Published with support from WALGA and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, the book tells the story of the development of Local Government in the State, which parallels the history of the State, from first beginnings to the gold rushes and through two world wars and the Great Depression. The post-war period has seen the continued expansion of the role of Local Government and the cementing of its place in serving and developing the community. Just as Local Government has spread into all corners of WA, there have been many attempts at reforming Local Government. That is an important part of the story, as are some of the personal stories of the characters and scoundrels who for better and for worse have been part of the remarkable story of Local Government in WA.

The book is available in local libraries across the State.

Individuals interested in sourcing copies of the book are asked to contact WALGA on [info@walga.asn.au](mailto:info@walga.asn.au)

# CHALLENGES AND UNCERTAINTY FACING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SECTOR

The local government sector is facing unprecedented challenges and uncertainty as we move into 2022 and beyond.

To meet these challenges, local governments will have to proactively review and adapt their strategic policy positions, business operations and community engagement approaches to continue delivering exemplary services to their communities whilst managing risk.

Jackson McDonald has identified the following five key challenges:

- Local Government Act (**LG Act**) reform
- Industrial relations reform
- Ongoing impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Implementation of the Work Health Safety Act 2020 (**WHS Act**)
- Addressing risks associated with climate change

## LG ACT REFORM

In November 2021, the Hon. John Carey announcement sweeping reforms to the LG Act that represent the largest change to local government in more than 25 years. The reforms are aimed at improving the transparency, accountability and efficiency across the local government sector particularly focusing on 6 major themes:

- Earlier intervention, effective regulation and stronger penalties;
- Reducing red tape, increasing consistency and simplicity;
- Greater transparency and accountability;
- Stronger local democracy and community engagement;
- Clear roles and responsibilities; and
- Improved financial management and reporting.

With such significant reforms, all local governments will not only need to be cognisant of the requirements of the proposed new LG Act but also adapt their policies, processes and systems to meet the objectives and intent of the new legislative framework.

## INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS REFORM

The Industrial Relations Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 was passed by the WA Parliament on 16 December 2021. DMIRS will now progress drafting of regulations to give effect to the changes which will include regulations to declare every local government “not to be a national system employer” for the purposes of the Fair Work Act 2009.

Local governments currently under the national industrial relations system will need to comply with the transitional arrangements to move to the state industrial relations system.

## ONGOING IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Public Health and State of Emergency Declarations remain in place as the COVID-19 Pandemic continues to impact the community. Local governments will need to ensure that their ongoing response continues to align with those Declarations.

In June 2021, the Local Government (COVID-19 Response) Amendment Order 2021 came into effect, which provides ongoing assistance to people experiencing financial hardship for the 2021-22 financial year.

With the phased approach to the implementation of the State's mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policy for the majority of occupations and workforces in WA including certain local government employees, local governments will have to be cognisant of the implications of the directions, how their work force may be impacted and the continuation of the delivery of services.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WHS ACT

The WHS Act will take effect March 2022 and provides greater protection to WA workers, capturing modern employment relationships, such as subcontractors or casual workers and moving beyond the traditional employer/employee relationship by introducing the term 'person conducting a business or undertaking'. Further, the WHS Act will include a number of new aspects such as criminalising industrial manslaughter, increased penalties, prohibiting insurance coverage for WHS penalties and the introduction of enforceable undertakings as an alternative penalty.

Local governments will have to adjust their safe work system to align with the new WHS Act requirements to meet the new due diligence obligations and to ensure a broad understanding of the requirements across their organisation.

## RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

Local governments are particularly exposed to the effects of climate change and will need to consider the impacts of climate change on all aspects of their operations. They will need to incorporate these considerations into their strategic planning (damage to public and private assets and infrastructure) and to manage the risk of claims relating to:

- failing to implement strategies to adequately protect property and assets;
- granting approvals that do not have due regard to climate change risks and related considerations; or
- imposing development conditions that seek to address future climate change risks which are challenged by applicants as being unduly onerous.

Whilst the impact of climate change will differ for each local government, it is prudent for all local governments to consider, plan for and manage the range of risks associated with climate change.

## CONTACT US

With the benefit of my extensive experience (over 7 years as Executive Manager Governance and Legal at the City of Wanneroo) and intimate understanding of the local government sector, Jackson McDonald is uniquely positioned to assist, advise and guide local governments to meet these key challenges.

**Contact Mustafa Ylidiz, Partner, Jackson McDonald on 9426 6611.**

# STATE COUNCIL BRIEFS

The following resolutions were made at the special State Council meeting held on Wednesday, 23 February at WALGA's West Leederville Office and online.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATIVE REFORM PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

1. That WALGA:
  - a. seek assurance from the Minister for Local Government that further detail on the proposed reforms will be provided to the sector for comment prior to the formulation of a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill; and
  - b. seek a formal commitment from the Minister for Local Government that WALGA actively participates in the legislative drafting process necessary to formulate a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill.
2. That the recommendations contained in the '*Local Government Reform Proposal Submission*' be endorsed subject to:
  - a. Item 1.6 Vexatious Complaint Referrals: Support proposed reform subject to the legislation to include the ability of a person to lodge an appeal with the Inspector.
  - b. Item 3.3 Clearer Guidance for Meeting Items that may be Confidential: Support proposed reform subject to deleting the requirement to provide confidential items to the DLGSC.
  - c. Item 4.3 Introduction of Preferential Voting:
    1. Oppose the proposal for preferential voting and support 'first past the post' as the method of counting votes.
    2. However, if 'first past the post' is not retained then optional preferential voting is preferred.
  - d. Item 4.4 Public Vote to Elect the Mayor and President: Oppose this proposal and support retaining the current provision, that the election of Mayors and Presidents be at the discretion of each Local Government.
  - e. Item 5.2.4 CEO Role: Support proposed reform subject to including reference that the CEO is responsible for the recruitment, and performance management of all staff as indicated in the current Act/Regulations.

- f. Additional Reform Proposal: Elector's Meetings:

That WALGA advocate to the Minister for Local Government to amend the *Local Government Act 1995* to provide protections against the misuse of special electors meetings by:

  1. prohibiting a matter previously considered being resubmitted; and
  2. ensuring that motions to be considered are relevant to Local Government.

At the State Council Meeting held online on Wednesday, 2 March WALGA CEO Nick Sloan ran the process to elect a new President. President Cr Karen Chappel was elected as President and Cr Paul Kelly elected as Deputy President.

The following resolutions were amongst those carried at the meeting:

## SHORT TERM ACCOMMODATION REGULATORY SCHEME

That:

1. the updated draft Short-Term Accommodation Regulatory Reform submission be endorsed; and
2. Recommendations 1 through 5 of the Short-Term Accommodation Regulatory Reform submission will supersede the existing policy position, and the existing position (128.6/2017) will be deleted.

## SUBMISSION ON INQUIRY INTO FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION OF HOMELESSNESS SERVICES IN WA

That the submission to the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations Inquiry into Financial Administration of Homelessness Services in WA be endorsed.



WALGA

WORKING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

# State Council

President Cr Karen Chappel JP .....	President/Northern Country Zone
Cr Paul Kelly .....	Deputy President/Central Metropolitan Zone
Cr Ken Seymour.....	Avon-Midland Country Zone
President Cr Phil Blight .....	Central Country Zone
Cr Helen Sadler .....	Central Metropolitan Zone
Cr Catherine Ehrhardt .....	East Metropolitan Zone
Cr John Daw .....	East Metropolitan Zone
President Cr Cheryl Cowell .....	Gascoyne Country Zone
President Cr Laurene Bonza .....	Goldfields Esperance Country Zone
President Cr Stephen Strange .....	Great Eastern Country Zone
President Cr Chris Pavlovich.....	Great Southern Country Zone
Cr Chris Mitchell JP.....	Kimberley Country Zone
Cr Les Price .....	Murchison Country Zone
Cr Frank Cvitan JP .....	North Metropolitan Zone
Cr Russ Fishwick JP .....	North Metropolitan Zone
Mayor Mark Irwin .....	North Metropolitan Zone
President Cr Michelle Rich.....	Peel Country Zone
Mayor Peter Long .....	Pilbara Country Zone
Cr Carl Celedin.....	South East Metropolitan Zone
Mayor Ruth Butterfield .....	South East Metropolitan Zone
Mayor Carol Adams OAM .....	South Metropolitan Zone
Mayor Logan Howlett JP .....	South Metropolitan Zone
Cr Doug Thompson .....	South Metropolitan Zone
President Cr Tony Dean .....	South West Country Zone
Ex-officio:	
Ms Annie Riordan.....	LG Professionals
Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas.....	The Rt Hon the Lord Mayor, City of Perth