



GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items

Unconfirmed Minutes

Friday 23 February 2024
Zoom Videoconference, commencing at 9.00am

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GOLDFIELDS VOLUNTARY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (GVROC)

Videoconference meeting of the GVROC Council to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items was held Friday 23 February 2024 9.00am

AGENDA

1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The purpose of the meeting is to provide advice to the GVROC WALGA State Council Representative, on the Agenda for the WALGA State Council Meetings to be held on 6 March 2024.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Pursuant to the Code of Conduct, Councillors and CEOs must declare to the Chairman any potential conflict of interest they may have in a matter before the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils as soon as they become aware of it. Councillors, CEOs and Deputies may be directly or indirectly associated with some recommendations of the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils. If you are affected by these recommendations, please excuse yourself from the meeting and do not participate in deliberations.

Nil

3. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 Attendance

Cr Mal Cullen (Chair)	President, Shire of Coolgardie
Cr Sherryl Botting	Councillor, Shire of Coolgardie (proxy for Cr T Rathbone)
Mr James Trail	CEO, Shire of Coolgardie
Cr Glenn Wilson	Mayor, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Cr Laurene Bonza	President, Shire of Dundas
Mr Peter Fitchat	CEO, Shire of Dundas
Cr Ron Chambers	President Shire of Esperance
Cr Wes Graham	Councillor, Shire of Esperance
Mr Shane Burge	CEO, Shire of Esperance
Mr Phil Marshall	CEO, Shire of Laverton
Mr Ty Matson	CEO, Shire of Leonora
Cr Peter Grundy	President, Shire of Wiluna
Mr Gary Gaffney	CEO, Shire of Wiluna
Mr Andrew Mann	Executive Officer, GVROC

3.2 Apologies

Cr Wayne Johnson	Councillor, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Mr Andrew Brien	CEO, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Cr Tracey Rathbone	Councillor, Shire of Coolgardie
Cr Sharon Warner	Councillor, Shire of Dundas
Cr Patrick Hill	President, Shire of Laverton
Cr Shaneane Weldon	Councillor, Shire of Laverton
Cr Peter Craig	President, Shire of Leonora
Cr Paul Warner	President, Shire of Menzies
Cr Sudhir Sudhir	Councillor, Shire of Menzies
Ms Glenda Teede	CEO, Shire of Menzies
Mr David Mosel	CEO, Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku
Cr Damian McLean	President, Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku
Cr Ane Koroicure	Councillor, Shire of Wiluna

3.3 Guests

Nil

3.4 WALGA Representatives

Meghan Dwyer Executive Officer
Max Bushell Senior Policy Advisor Road Safety & Infrastructure

3.5 DLGSC Representatives

Nil – see DLGSC report (**Attachment 2**)

4. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

4.1 Minutes of a Meeting of GVROC to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items held 17 November 2023

Minutes of the GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council held Friday 17 November 2023 are presented for adoption (**Attachment 1**).

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council held Friday 17 November 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**
 Seconded: Cr Ron Chambers, Shire of Esperance

Carried

5. DLGSC REPORT

From: Department Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC)

Attachment: DLGSC report – February 2024 – WALGA Zone meetings (**Attachment 2**)

Background:

DLGSC have provided its February 2024 report for consideration at all WALGA Zone meetings as per the **Attachment 2**.

Comment:

DLGSC have requested that if WALGA zones have any questions on the report, WALGA will note these at the meetings and send them to the DLGSC for a response. The DLGSC will then provide answers to these questions and circulate them back to WALGA for advice back to the WALGA zones. For individual queries from zone members, a list of DLGSC contacts is contained in the report.

RECOMMENDATION

The GVROC notes the DLGSC report February 2024 as presented.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Peter Grundy, Shire of Wiluna**
 Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Carried

6. EMERGING ITEMS

From: Chair GVROC

Background:

WALGA State Council meets five times each year and as part of the consultation process with Member Councils circulates the State Council Agenda for input through the Zone structure. The Zone can provide comment or submit an alternate recommendation that is then presented to the State Council for consideration.

A full copy of the State Council Agenda for the meeting on 6 March 2024 can be found at **Attachment 3**.

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

7. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Decision

7.1 Separation (Centre) and Edge Line Markings by Local Government on Low Volume Rural Roads

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA endorse the below Advocacy Position:

1. **Main Roads Western Australia allow Local Governments to install edge line and separation (centre) line markings on roads that meet all relevant criteria, but do not meet the criterion on traffic volume.**
2. **For this exemption, Local Governments must adhere to the following conditions:**
 - a) **The Local Government contact Main Roads via the Regional Network Manager with their intent to undertake line marking on specific roads that do not meet the traffic volume criterion, but meet all the other criteria.**
 - b) **The Local Government obtain a Council resolution, committing to fund all installation and maintenance costs.**
 - c) **Local Government undertake spotting/surveying.**
 - d) **Main Roads to undertake an inspection following the survey/spotting work, confirm the start and finish points for the longitudinal line markings, and record the sections of road with line markings to be maintained by Local Government in the relevant database.**
 - e) **Main Roads approve the final layout prior to line marking occurring.**
 - f) **Local Government undertake the works.**
 - g) **Local Government maintain the works in accordance with Main Roads WA standards.**
 - h) **Local Government remove the lines if maintenance works are not performed to the standard.**

IN BRIEF:

- The Main Roads WA warrant does not currently allow edge line or separation (centre) line markings on Local Government roads that carry less than certain traffic volume thresholds.
- Local Governments would like to enhance the safety of their roads by installing line markings in instances where only the traffic volume criterion under the warrant is not met.
- A process is proposed in this item whereby Local Governments would pay for the installation and maintenance and Main Roads would perform the necessary inspections to ensure that the markings adhere to the applicable standard.
- Local Governments would not be required to undertake these works, but rather would have the option to install line markings on qualifying roads that do not meet the traffic volume criterion at their own cost.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Road Safety Strategy

State Council Resolution

March 2022 – 325.2/2022

September 2019 – 99.6/2019

Including:

- that the Road Safety Council considers establishing a program that encourages and supports the development of innovative, low-cost solutions that can be applied as mass action treatments to progressively work towards the zero vision.
- that Local Government managed roads be eligible for such funding to avoid a growing gap in safety performance, on the roads used by the community, on every trip.

There are currently no Advocacy Positions specifically relating to installing line markings on low volume roads that do not meet the current Main Roads WA warrant.

BACKGROUND:

Local Governments in WA maintain approximately 127,000km, or 87.2%, of the road network in WA, of which 31.2% or around 40,000km is sealed. Much of the Local Government road network carries low volumes of traffic. As road asset managers, Local Governments place high importance on road safety when planning, constructing, and maintaining the road network under their control.

Safety Treatments

Line marking and signage are among the most cost-effective road safety treatments available to Local Governments.

Painted Separation Lines

One simple measure to enhance the safety of a road at low cost and with reasonable effectiveness is the provision of painted separation (centre) lines. The Main Roads Treatment Resource Guide indicates that providing painted separation (centre) lines can reduce instances of head-on crashes by 20% and run off road crashes by 10%.¹

Painted Edge Lines

Another low-cost road safety treatment is the provision of painted edge lines. According to the Main Roads Treatment Resource Guide, moving from no edge lines to painted edge lines will reduce crashes resulting in death or serious injury (KSI crashes) by 25%.¹

The safety of road users may additionally be increased by improvements in Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) in vehicles. Lane Departure Warning and Lane Keeping Assist are two ADAS, which do not function without painted separation (centre) lines and edge lines.

Main Roads Warrant

Derived from Australian Standard 1742.2:2022, the current Main Roads warrant, as outlined in the [Guideline for Barrier Line Marking Assessment](#), for installing separation (centre) lines is based on vehicle volumes and pavement width:

- On rural roads: 300 vehicles per day,
- On urban roads: 2500 vehicles per day,
- 5.5m or greater seal width.

For edge lines, the warrant is slightly different, though still based on vehicle volumes and pavement width. The thresholds are as follows:

- On rural roads: 2500 vehicles per day or greater or heavy vehicle volumes of 300 vehicles per day or greater,
- 6.8m or greater seal width,
- On rural or other arterial roads where the shoulder is partly or fully sealed and seal requirements are met.²

Many country roads in WA qualify for separation (centre) lines based on seal width, but not on vehicle volumes. Some Local Governments may be in a position to fund and undertake line marking works on these qualifying roads, but are currently unable to do so, based on the Main Roads' warrant.

Cost

The cost of providing separation (centre) line and edge line markings and the service life of line markings may vary between regions. The costs can be approximated as follows:

- Line marking (centre and edge lines) - \$1,580/km; Lifespan – 1-5 years
- Audio tactile line markings (centre and edge lines) - \$7,000/km; Lifespan – 5 years³

¹ Main Roads Western Australia. (2021). *Treatment Resource Guide*. Retrieved from <https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/globalassets/technical-commercial/road-safety/treatment-resource-guide.pdf?v=492d8e>.

² Austroads. (2019). *Guide to Traffic Management Part 10: Traffic Control and Communication Devices*. Retrieved from https://austrroads.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0026/342836/AGTM10-19-Guide-to-Traffic-Management-Part-10-Traffic-Control-and-Communication-Devices.pdf.

³ Mak, M. and Tang, E. (2023). *Practitioner's Guideline: Low-Cost Safety Improvements for Rural Local Government Roads in WA*. Retrieved from <https://warrrip.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/LG-TRRIP-01-Practitioners-Guideline-Low-Cost-Safety-Rural-Final.pdf>.

Local Governments should take local conditions into account and consult with the relevant Main Roads Regional Manager in the development of a maintenance program for line markings.

Risks to Local Government

The identified risks to Local Government in providing separation (centre) and edge line markings are concerns around inconsistency between Local Government areas, the removal of line markings due to a lack of maintenance and changing council priorities.

Inconsistency across Local Government jurisdictional boundaries

As an option for Local Governments, some Local Governments may not be able to take on the extra cost burden or have the capacity to undertake line marking works. This may lead to line markings commencing/ending at the jurisdictional boundary between shires. While inconsistent, there are currently no markings on roads that do not meet the warrant, so an inconsistent approach to providing line markings will increase safety for road users as opposed to the current status quo. This increase in safety outweighs concerns about inconsistent markings on the Local Government – Road network.

Lack of Maintenance of Line Markings

If lines are not maintained, they will no longer perform a useful function and could mislead drivers. Should such a situation arise, Local Government would be required to remove the lines at their own cost. As such, it is important that Local Governments prepare and commit to a program of maintenance for their line markings.

Changes to Council Priorities

Line maintenance may have reduced priority at a Local Government in instances where the council priorities change. Local Governments can mitigate the possibility of this occurring by preparing and honouring long-term maintenance contracts.

COMMENT:

The safety of the Local Government road network could be enhanced by amending the current warrant to allow Local Governments to install separation (centre) lines and edge lines in instances where they do not meet the vehicle volume requirements, but do meet all the remaining requirements for separation (centre) line and edge line marking.

To mitigate the identified risks, it is proposed that in seeking Main Roads support to allow line marking Local Governments commit to the following conditions:

1. The Local Government contact Main Roads via the Regional Network Manager with their intent to undertake line marking on specific roads that do not meet the traffic volume criterion but meet all the other criteria.
2. The Local Government obtain a Council resolution, committing to fund all installation and maintenance costs.
3. Local Government undertake spotting/surveying.
4. Main Roads to undertake an inspection following the survey/spotting work, confirm the start and finish points for the longitudinal line markings, and record the sections of road with line markings to be maintained by Local Government in the relevant database.
5. Main Roads approve the final layout prior to line marking occurring.
6. Local Government undertake the works.
7. Local Government maintain the works in accordance with Main Roads WA standards.
8. Local Government remove the lines if maintenance works are not performed to the standard.

The seal width of the road must meet the following parameters to be eligible for line marking.

Separation (Centre) line Markings – Minimum 5.5m seal width

Edge Line Markings – Minimum 6.8m seal width

Installation of line markings by Local Governments under these circumstances would be optional.

Should the traffic volumes exceed the threshold for line marking per the current Main Roads standards in the future following installation, control and maintenance of the line markings would be transferred to Main Roads, subject to written agreement between the relevant Local Government and the Main Roads Regional Manager.

7.2 Recovered Materials Framework Advocacy Position

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA:

1. Rescind the existing *WALGA Standards for Recycled Organics Applied to Land Policy Statement 2007* and Advocacy Position 7.9:

Local Government:

1. Acknowledges the benefits of applying recycled organics to land, especially as a means of diverting organic material from landfill; and,
 2. Supports the development of standards for applying recycled organics to land, to ensure a fit for purpose product is developed.
2. Endorse a new *Recovered Materials Framework Advocacy Position* as follows:

The use of recovered materials, across a range of applications, is essential in reducing the use of basic raw materials, meeting State Waste Strategy Targets and increasing diversion of waste from landfill. To ensure end users have high confidence in the quality and safety of products derived from recovered materials, consistent, outcomes-based standards and investment certainty are required.

The State Government, in consultation with Local Government and the waste management industry, should take a leadership role in facilitating the use of recovered material by:

1. Developing a regulatory framework which:
 - a. Outlines clear, outcomes-based specifications for individual products which take into consideration the receiving environment and allow for site-specific assessment.
 - b. Minimises risk to human health and the environment from the use of recovered material.
 - c. Establishes robust systems to provide quality assurance and ongoing surveillance throughout the supply chain.
2. Providing guidance and support mechanisms for the successful implementation of the framework.
3. Supporting the development of, and access to, sustainable end markets and long-term offtake agreements through initiatives such as active engagement with potential end users and the inclusion of recovered material content targets in Government procurement and large infrastructure projects.

IN BRIEF:

- The [Standards for Recycled Organics Applied to Land Policy Statement 2007](#) was developed at a time when the main option for landfill diversion of organic material in Western Australia was through mixed waste Alternative Waste Treatment (AWT) facilities.
- The Policy Statement provides principles for the development of standards for recycled organics applied to land, however these principles are potentially broadly applicable to any recovered material applied to land.
- The approach taken is that the principles/approach in the Policy Statement have been reviewed and used to inform the development of the Recovered Materials Framework Advocacy Position.
- The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation is developing a Recovered Materials Framework to cover the application of recovered materials to land.
- The Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) endorsed the new Advocacy Position in December 2023.

ATTACHMENT: Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

This item rescinds the existing [Policy Statement](#) and [Advocacy Position](#):

7.9 Recycled Organics Applied to Land

Local Government:

1. Acknowledges the benefits of applying recycled organics to land, especially as a means of diverting organic material from landfill; and,

2. Supports the development of standards for applying recycled organics to land, to ensure a fit for purpose product is developed.

A new Advocacy Position focused on the development of a Recovered Materials Framework is proposed:

The use of recovered materials, across a range of applications, is essential in reducing the use of basic raw materials, meeting State Waste Strategy Targets and increasing diversion of waste from landfill. To ensure end users have high confidence in the quality and safety of products derived from recovered materials, consistent, outcomes-based standards and investment certainty are required.

The State Government, in consultation with Local Government and the waste management industry, should take a leadership role in facilitating the use of recovered material by:

1. Developing a regulatory framework which:
 - a. Outlines clear, outcomes-based specifications for individual products which take into consideration the receiving environment and allow for site-specific assessment.
 - b. Minimises risk to human health and the environment from the use of recovered material.
 - c. Establishes robust systems to provide quality assurance and ongoing surveillance throughout the supply chain.
2. Providing guidance and support mechanisms for the successful implementation of the framework.
3. Supporting the development of, and access to, sustainable end markets and long-term offtake agreements through initiatives such as active engagement with potential end users and the inclusion of recovered material content targets in Government procurement and large infrastructure projects.

BACKGROUND:

In 2007, when the [Policy Statement on Standards for Recycled Organics Applied to Land](#) was developed, Regional Councils had in place or were developing, Alternative Waste Treatment (AWT) infrastructure for mixed waste composting (output of 2-bin system or City of Stirling's 1-bin system).

This direction was largely in response to State Government push to reduce waste to landfill and eliminate the development of new landfill sites in the Perth metropolitan area. At that time the State Government had not expressed a technology/system preference. AWTs were diverting substantial amounts of material from landfill to beneficial uses, however because of the mixed waste source there was a high degree of concern about potential contamination of land. The approach taken in the Policy Statement was to advocate for outcome based, fit for purpose, standards.

With the decision of Beech J in *Eclipse Resources Pty Ltd v The State of Western Australia* in 2016, any clean fill material applied to land (over 500 tonnes/year) could be considered landfilling. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation has undertaken several consultations on the development of framework to facilitate the use of recovered materials (Waste Derived Materials Framework 2019-20).

In WALGA's previous submissions on the establishment of a Legislative framework for recovered materials, the following key outcomes were identified:

- Risk based, fit for purpose standards – the standards should be based on the risk associated with the material and its use in specific applications.
- Streamlined approval process for waste derived materials – a process which does not require an application to be lodged with the Department for every use of material and that is supported by clear guidance documentation (developed in consultation with industry).
- WA specific evidence base – to be able to make risk-based assessments DWER will need to establish a reliable WA specific evidence base, and secured staff with the necessary skills and experience to successfully implement a framework.
- Certainty and stability for markets - the establishment of a legislative framework for waste derived materials will not automatically create market demand for waste derived materials. A range of other initiatives are required to support uptake of these materials, such as active engagement with potential end users and the inclusion of recycled content targets in Government procurement.

Following these consultations the Department is progressing a Recovered Materials Framework. The development of an Advocacy Position on this will inform WALGA's input into the development of the final Framework.

7.3 Review of Cemeteries Act 1986 and Cremation Act 1929 Discussion Paper

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA:

- 1. Supports the intent of the Review of Cemeteries Act 1986 and Cremation Act 1929 Discussion Paper to reduce red tape, modernise legislation and standardise administrative practices; and**
- 2. Advocates that Local Government cemetery managers retain the capacity to impose cemetery fees and charges under Part 6 of the Local Government Act.**

IN BRIEF:

- The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries released the Review of *Cemeteries Act 1986* and *Cremation Act 1929* Discussion Paper in November 2023 for public submission.
- WALGA was granted an extension to the submission closing period of 16 February 2024 to permit sector involvement in providing feedback from the Zone process and State Council consideration.

ATTACHMENT:

- [Review of Cemeteries Act 1986 and Cremation Act 1929 Discussion Paper](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Relates to WALGA Advocacy Position 2.1.14 'Fees and Charges'

BACKGROUND:

The Review of *Cemeteries Act 1986* and *Cremation Act 1929* Discussion Paper was released for public comment in November 2023.

The key focus of the Review is to obtain stakeholder feedback on a range of issues identified in the WA cemetery and cremation industry. The intent of the Review is to reduce unnecessary red tape and provide clearer legislation for the benefit of the general public and the funeral industry, including 108 Local Governments with responsibility for open and closed cemeteries and planning requirements of cemeteries within their districts.

The Review is based on 7 key themes:

- **Legislation** - That improvement to legislation could result in greater administrative efficiencies;
- **Alternative Methods for Disposal of Human Remains** - Considering alternative and traditional burials and cremations may provide greater clarity about types of burials that may be provided;
- **Cemetery Redevelopment** – Amending legislation to strengthen public consultation requirements may allay concerns when planning for cemetery redevelopment;
- **Burials Outside of Proclaimed Cemeteries** – Cemetery managers, including Local Governments, could be given responsibility for approving burials outside proclaimed cemeteries, under conditions to be defined by legislation or policy reform;
- **Licensing of Funeral Directors and Monumental Masons** – An improved registration system has potential to replace multiple registrations across different cemeteries;
- **Cremation Services in WA** – Potential for further improvements to the publicly owned and operated crematoria services in WA;
- **Consistency of Forms and Fees** – Prescribed forms could be introduced and fees and charges standardized for consistency.

COMMENT:

WALGA promoted the opportunity to provide a submission to the Review and requested Local Government submissions be circulated to WALGA. To date, no submissions were received however it is understood the Department has received some sector feedback.

At face value, the main themes of the Review appear worthy of support due to the intent to reduce red tape and for all Cemetery Boards, including Local Governments, to operate cemeteries on a consistent footing. One theme that may benefit from closer analysis is the proposal for consistency of fees.

Currently, Local Governments are required by legislation to observe a range of factors when setting fees and charges under the provisions of s.6.17 of the Local Government Act, which includes the cost to the Local Government to provide the service.

The sector may support consistency of fees if the effort to provide the service is likely to be consistent; for example, across a sample of 4 Local Governments in different regions, the adopted 2023/24 fee and charge for a single monumental mason licence ranged for \$163.00 to \$193.00, suggesting a similar effort is required to provide this service.

Alternatively, the sector may not support standardising the level of fees where the cost of providing the service is likely to be affected by different cost factors; for example, across the same 4 Local Governments the adopted 2023/24 fee and charge for a standard burial range between \$1,204 and \$2,307, suggesting a range of different cost factors affect the ability of each Local Government to provide this service.

The presumed support for maintaining some local autonomy to set fees and charges is supported by long-standing WALGA advocacy position 2.1.14⁴:

2.1.14 Fees and Charges

Position Statement

That a review be undertaken to remove fees and charges from legislation, and Councils be empowered to set fees and charges for Local Government services.

Summary

It is recommended that on balance, that WALGA support the Review and advocate for Local Governments to continue to impose cemetery fees and charges under the current legislative provisions.

In terms of next steps, the feedback from this Review will inform the development of a Decision Regulatory Impact Statement and to determine next steps which may include amendments to current legislation or introduction of new Act(s). Further consultation with stakeholders is likely at this future stage.

RECOMMENDATION

GVROC notes and supports the WALGA recommendation as presented.

RESOLUTION:

**Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas
Seconded: Cr Peter Grundy, Shire of Wiluna**

Carried

⁴ Source – WALGA Advocacy Positions, 12 January 2024

8. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Noting/Information

8.1 2024-25 Federal Budget Submission

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note WALGA's 2024-25 Federal Budget Submission.

IN BRIEF:

- The WALGA President has written to the Federal Assistant Treasurer to support the initiatives identified in ALGA's 2024-24 Federal Budget Submission.
- The submission also highlights additional areas that are a priority for WA Local Governments in the 2024-25 Budget, including:
 - Funding to improve safety on high-speed roads in regional and peri-urban areas.
 - Addressing gaps on the long-term cycle network
 - Addressing systemic issues in the provision of health services in the regions and compensating Local Governments for the costs they are incurring to support the provision of primary health services in their communities.
 - Funding for a dedicated training program for key areas of skills shortages in Local Government, including town planners, building surveyors and Environmental Health Officers (EHOs).
 - Funding support for programs to manage the impacts of climate change and build resilience.
- The submission was provided to Commonwealth Treasury and the Assistant Treasurer in January 2024, and will be sent to all WA Members of Federal Parliament in coming weeks.

ATTACHMENT:

- WALGA 2024 Federal Budget Submission letter
- [ALGA 2024 Federal Budget Submission](#)

BACKGROUND:

The Federal Assistant Treasurer recently called for submissions for the 2024-25 Budget.

Each year, ALGA prepares a submission on behalf of the Local Government sector nationally. The 2024-25 ALGA submission requests funding for a range of initiatives across the following key themes:

- Addressing Local Government Financial Sustainability,
- Improving Core Local Government Funding Programs, and
- Partnering with Local Government to address national priorities.

The WALGA President wrote to the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer in January 2024 in support of the ALGA submission. WALGA's submission (attached) also seeks a commitment to address additional issues of particular importance for WA Local Governments:

- Funding to improve safety on high-speed roads in regional and peri-urban areas,
- Addressing systemic issues in the provision of health services in the regions and compensating Local Governments for the costs they are incurring to support the provision of primary health services in their communities,
- Funding for a dedicated training program for key areas of skills shortages in Local Government, including town planners, building surveyors and Environmental Health Officers (EHOs), and
- Funding support for programs to manage the impacts of climate change and build resilience.

These priorities have previously been endorsed by State Council [July 2019 – 79.5/2019; May 2022 – 334.4/2022; July 2023 – 460.3/2023; 237.FM/2023]

WALGA's submission will be provided to all WA Members of Federal Parliament to highlight these priority initiatives.

COMMENT:

The 2024-25 Federal Budget is an ideal opportunity to advocate for priority initiatives for the WA Local Government sector in advance of the upcoming Federal Election.

WALGA will be seeking opportunities to engage with WA Members of Federal Parliament on these and other key issues for the sector.

<p>Item 10.1: 2024-25 Federal Budget Submission Attachment: WALGA 2024 Federal Budget Submission letter</p>

25 January 2024

via email: prebudgetsubmissions@treasury.gov.au

Hon Stephen Jones MP
Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Financial Services
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Assistant Treasurer

**2024-25 FEDERAL BUDGET
PRIORITIES FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

I am writing to highlight the priorities for Western Australian Local Governments in the 2024-25 Federal Budget.

The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) represents and supports all 139 Local Governments in the State. WALGA uses its influence, support and expertise to deliver better outcomes for WA Local Governments and their communities.

WALGA is also a member of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), the national voice of Local Government.

The 2024-25 Federal Budget will once again be delivered in a challenging economic environment. Soaring living costs continue to take a toll on households, with many being forced to tighten their belts. Businesses and Governments are also feeling the impacts of inflation through the rising cost of program and infrastructure delivery.

These challenges are compounded in Western Australia due to its vast geographical size, which creates unique challenges for regional areas of the state due to limited suppliers and materials, constraints on key infrastructure and labour shortages.

The 2024-25 Budget represents an important opportunity to invest in programs and initiatives that will overcome these challenges. It is more important than ever that all levels of Government direct spending towards services, programs and infrastructure that will deliver the greatest value to the community.

WALGA fully supports the ALGA 2024-25 Pre-Budget Submission, which highlights a range of priorities for the Local Government sector across the country.

WALGA would also like to highlight a number of further priorities that will address the unique challenges being experienced in Western Australia.

Road Safety

In 2022 the road fatality rate in regional WA was 18.7 per 100,000 population, more than 6.5 times the rate in the Perth metropolitan area and more than four times the Australian fatality rate. Over 70% of all fatal and serious injury crashes in regional WA result from run-off road or head-on collisions.

There are significant challenges to improve the safety of the extensive, lightly trafficked, Local Government managed road network in regional Western Australia. However, relatively low-cost treatments, specifically sealing road shoulders and installing audible edge and centre (separation) lines have been proven to significantly reduce the frequency of run-off road and head-on crashes. As an example, installing a 1m wide sealed shoulder is estimated to reduce run-off road casualty crashes by 61% (Main Roads Western Australia 2021, Treatment resource guide, MRWA, Perth, WA).

A Business Case led by the RAC WA in partnership with WALGA and Main Roads WA, with support from the National Transport Research Organisation, proposes a program to apply proven treatments on 439 sealed high-speed roads covering 8,200km in regional and peri-urban areas. The proposed \$552 million program would result in the avoidance of 138 fatalities and 489 serious injuries over a modelled 30-year lifespan and an average 23.6% improvement in the AusRAP Star Rating Score. The program aligns with the National Road Safety Strategy and its goals.

A funding commitment of \$25 million per year from 2024-25 is sought to undertake this transformational change to regional road safety.

Regional and Rural Health

Those living in outer-metropolitan, regional and rural locations in WA have poorer access to primary health care, and as a result face increased costs, reduced quality of care and worse health outcomes compared those in metropolitan areas.

At least 68 WA Local Governments⁵ are reluctantly stepping in to address this failure through subsidising the provision of healthcare services for their communities, including funding accommodation, vehicles and medical centre operations. This is placing pressure on Local Government resources and diverting funds away from the provision of other essential community services and infrastructure.

The Commonwealth and State Government need to address the systemic issues in the provision of health services in the regions and develop and fund innovative solutions. As a first step, WALGA proposes the Commonwealth and State Government convene a consultative committee of key stakeholders, including Local Government, to focus on:

⁵⁵ Based on 2021-22 figures

- Addressing critical healthcare workforce shortages,
- Managing the health challenges posed by ageing populations and chronic illnesses,
- Innovation in service provision, and
- Developing appropriate funding mechanisms and levels for healthcare service provision.

Until the broader systemic issues are addressed, rural and regional Local Governments should be **reimbursed for the costs incurred to support the delivery of essential primary health services for their communities.**

Skills Shortages

Local Governments, like other sectors of the WA economy are experiencing key skills shortages, which are impacting their capacity to efficiently undertake important planning and regulatory functions to protect the wellbeing of the WA community.

In particular, planners, building surveyors and Environmental Health Officers (EHO) were identified in the 2022 Local Government Workforce Skills and Capability Survey to be critical Local Government Occupations and among the hardest in WA to fill. The Western Australian Department of Training and Workforce Development's State Priority Occupation List identifies both town planners and building surveyors as a State Priority 1, noting that there is a high level of demand, ongoing difficulty in filling positions and challenges in attracting people to the profession. EHO are also identified on the State Priority Occupation List as a State Priority 2.

Funding for a dedicated Local Government training program for town planning, building surveyor and EHO is necessary to support education, training and professional development for these key areas of skills shortage in WA.

Building resilience to disasters

Increasing and more severe natural disasters are a key consequence of climate change, and come at a significant cost to the national economy. Natural disasters are currently estimated to cost the Australian economy \$38 billion annually and are expected to rise to \$73 billion annually by 2060. Investing in resilience, both before and after disasters, is an effective mechanism to reduce these costs, as highlighted in WALGA's submission to the Government's Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding.

Betterment funding needs greater support in the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements WA (DRFA-WA). WA has lagged behind other States in incorporating betterment funding. WALGA recommends that betterment is a standard requirement through the DRFA and that WA Local Governments have equitable access to betterment funding to support disaster impacted WA communities. This is also reinforced in WALGA's [State Budget Submission](#), which requests that the State Government create a reserve fund for disaster resilient reconstruction of essential public assets following a natural disaster.

In WA, demand for Commonwealth Disaster Funding Grants, such as the Disaster Ready Fund, significantly exceeds supply and funding rounds are highly competitive. WA includes one third of the Australian land mass and 11% of the Australian population, however only \$8.8 million, or 4% of Round 1 of the Disaster Ready Fund was allocated to WA projects.

WALGA recommends an increased pool of funding for disaster risk reduction, which will reduce the long-term cost of disasters, and that an equitable allocation of funding is provided to support WA communities.

Climate Change

Climate change is making our communities more vulnerable to hotter temperatures, more extreme weather events, and damage to infrastructure.

Addressing the causes and impacts of climate change requires a collaborative effort across all levels of government, business and the community.

It is recognised that the Commonwealth Government has provided funding for a range of programs aimed at addressing the impacts of climate change, including the \$100 million Community Energy Upgrades Fund. **The Commonwealth Government needs to continue to work with State and Local governments to manage the impacts of climate change and to build resilience.**

Managing Coastal Erosion and Inundation

Climate change induced sea level rise presents a real and direct threat to the liveability of our communities and is a nation-wide issue requiring national leadership and investment. Infrastructure Australia has identified the development of a national coastal erosion and inundation strategy as a high priority initiative. However, there is currently no national strategy or dedicated national funding program for adapting to coastal hazards.

Given our extensive coastline, coastal hazards are a particularly important issue for WA. The majority (80%) of WA's population lives within 10km of the coast and coastal hazards pose a significant threat to infrastructure such as ports and roads, public assets, private property, and natural coastal ecosystems. Managing the long-term impacts of coastal erosion and inundation is beyond the financial and technical capacity of Local Governments.

WA Local Governments support the need for a **sustainable, equitable and efficient funding model for coastal adaptation. It is proposed that the Productivity Commission be tasked with investigating an appropriate funding framework that shares the cost of adapting to coastal hazards appropriately among all levels of Government and the community.**

Urban Canopy

Trees are crucial to mitigate the impacts of climate change in urban areas, providing shade and reducing heat, while also creating liveable neighbourhoods, improving air quality, enhancing biodiversity and promoting psychological and emotional wellbeing.

With climate projections of higher temperatures, more very hot days and longer and more intense heatwaves, this role will become even more important. The impacts will be more pronounced in urban areas as a result of the heat island effect caused by heat absorbing materials used in roads and buildings.

Local Governments are working hard to implement measures to reduce tree loss on private land and undertake comprehensive tree planting programs on street verges, parks and other public areas. Unfortunately, between 2011 and 2020 one quarter of Perth's urban canopy has been lost, largely through the clearing of private land for development.

The task of creating cooler cities and shadier suburbs is a national one, with Local Governments around Australia working hard to address this climate risk. Several State Governments are working to support Local Governments through funding through competitive grant programs for urban planting. Previous Commonwealth greening initiatives, such as the 20 Million Trees Program, focused on biodiversity and environmental outcomes, and thus had limited impact on urban heat where people live, our suburbs and towns. Funding from the Commonwealth will accelerate efforts to green our cities and suburbs to increase liveability and reduce the impacts of climate change.

Active Travel

The population of Greater Perth is forecast to grow by around 30% by 2031 with the demand for travel likely to increase in line with population. Mode shift from reliance on private cars to active and public transport remains limited. Nearly one third of Perth's 34 strategic activity centres have low accessibility by public transport, increasing the importance of active transport connections. Making it feasible and easier for people to travel by active modes has wide ranging benefits aligned with Government priorities including reducing greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles, health benefits from improving air quality and increased physical activity and reduced economic and social costs of traffic congestion. Infrastructure Australia has recognised the essential role of active transport in cities and emphasized the need to complete cross-boundary Local Government transport networks.

Local Governments have worked collectively and with the State Department of Transport to define a network of primary, secondary and local active travel routes. Currently around 40% of the primary network and 34% of the secondary network is completed. The remainder is either non-existent or requires significant improvement.

Funding support from the Commonwealth will accelerate the delivery of key routes on the Long Term Cycle Network in WA, and connect key destinations.

We look forward to partnering with the Commonwealth Government to address these priority areas of investment, which are important to WA Local Governments and the communities they represent.

For enquiries please contact WALGA CEO Nick Sloan on 08 9213 2025
or nsloan@walga.asn.au.

Yours sincerely

Cr Karen Chappel AM JP
WALGA President

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC note WALGA's 2024-25 Federal Budget Submission.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: *Mayor Glenn Wilson, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder***
 Seconded: *Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas*

Carried

8.2 Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan (EM-SAP) Local Government Consultation Project

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the update on the Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan Local Government Consultation project.

IN BRIEF:

- In October 2022, a SEMC Climate Change Subcommittee (CCSC) was established to provide leadership and guidance in the development of an Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan (EM-SAP).
- The EM-SAP is being developed through the Department of Fire and Emergency Service's (DFES') Climate Change Adaptation Program (CCAP).
- WALGA has been engaged to obtain input from the Local Government sector on an EM-SAP Discussion Paper to inform the development of the final EM-SAP that will be submitted for endorsement by the SEMC in mid-2024.
- WALGA's consultation with the Local Government sector on the EM-SAP will be delivered during February and March 2024 and will include an EM-SAP Information Webinar on 14 February and several interactive workshops delivered on the 20, 21 and 26 February.
- Registration to participate in WALGA's EM-SAP webinar and workshops is via the [WALGA website](#).
- A draft WALGA submission that includes the consultation summary and EM-SAP recommendations will be submitted to State Council via the Flying Minute process for endorsement at the end of March, to meet the SEMC's consultation timeframes.

ATTACHMENT

- [Western Australian Sector Adaptation Plan \(EM-SAP\) Discussion Paper \(December 2023\) State Emergency Management Committee](#)

BACKGROUND:

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) has identified climate change impacts and risks for the EM sector as a strategic priority and a SEMC Climate Change Subcommittee (CCSC) has been established to provide guidance in the development of an [Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan \(EM-SAP\)](#). WALGA's CEO Nick Sloan was appointed as the CCSC Sponsor and Executive Manager Policy, Nicole Mathews as the Deputy Chair.

The EM-SAP is one of seven sector-based plans delivered to help implement the [Western Australian Climate Adaptation Strategy](#). The EM-SAP strategic project has been funded by the National Disaster Risk Reduction grant fund and is being developed through the Department of Fire and Emergency Service's (DFES') Climate Change Adaptation Program (CCAP).

The EM-SAP aims to:

- Build enhanced and shared understanding of climate change impacts and risks for the EM sector;
- Embed climate change risk and management considerations into EM decision making where relevant; and
- Identify and prioritise adaptation actions that can help ensure the EM sector is well adapted to climate change.

The EM-SAP is being developed in broad consultation across the EM sector. Given Local Governments are prescribed various responsibilities under the *Emergency Management Act, 2005*, they are considered a key Emergency Management Agency (EMA) stakeholder in the EM-SAP project. WALGA has therefore been engaged to obtain targeted input from the Local Government sector on an EM-SAP Discussion Paper, released by the DFES CCAP, to inform the development of the final EM-SAP.

The consultation on the EM-SAP Discussion Paper that opened on the 13 December 2023 and closes on the 29 March 2024 provides the EM sector an opportunity to have their say on the EM-SAP's content and objectives, and to shape the sector's climate change adaptation priorities.

The consultation is seeking feedback on:

- Current and planned adaptation activities undertaken by organisations; and
- The sector adaptation objectives and actions and reporting processes and governance structure proposed in the Discussion Paper.

It is not expected that further public consultation on a draft EM-SAP will be conducted. However, WALGA will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft EM-SAP via a targeted consultation process with the SEMC Subcommittees, that includes the CCSC. A final EM-SAP is expected to be endorsed by SEMC in mid-2024.

WALGA Project Lead, Emergency Management, Simone Ruane is coordinating the consultation with the Local Government sector on the EM-SAP that will be delivered during February and March 2024. WALGA will initiate the consultation by hosting an EM-SAP webinar that will include presentations from CCSC Chair and DFES Assistant Commissioner, Rick Curtis and CCAP Manager Dr Neville Ellis that will highlight the imperative of climate change adaptation for the SEMC and the EM sector, provide an overview of the purpose and proposed actions of the EM-SAP, and outline how Local Governments can provide input. In addition, POD Consultancy has been engaged to support the design and facilitation of a series of a face to face and three online workshops to obtain the responses from a diverse range of WA Local Governments on the questions posed to Local Government in the EM-SAP Discussion Paper.

To meet the SEMC's consultation timeframes, a draft submission of WALGA's EM-SAP recommendations and their alignment with WALGA's advocacy positions will be presented to the People and Place Policy Team and State Council via the Flying Minute process for endorsement at the end of March. State Council will have an opportunity for input on the draft final EM-SAP before it is presented to SEMC, if there are any substantial changes that cannot be addressed by the original submission.

COMMENT:

Western Australian Local Governments are already experiencing the impacts of climate change. Warmer and dryer conditions, extreme weather events, sea level rise, and extended bushfire seasons are testing many Local Government's emergency management capabilities and the resilience of their respective communities. Recent reviews into Local Government's current EM responsibilities to maintain Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) and administer Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMCs) have confirmed that the current system for local emergency management is not fit for purpose, is administratively onerous and does not adequately consider the increasing risks associated with climate change. The EM-SAP project provides an important opportunity for Local Governments to inform State Emergency Management Framework reforms that strengthen the consideration of climate change in emergency management planning in a way that does not result in further administrative burden and resource requirements for Local Governments who are already struggling to meet their emergency management obligations.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC note the WALGA update on the Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan Local Government Consultation

RESOLUTION:

**Moved: Cr Sherryl Botting, Shire of Coolgardie
Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**

Carried

8.3 State Council Flying Agenda Process

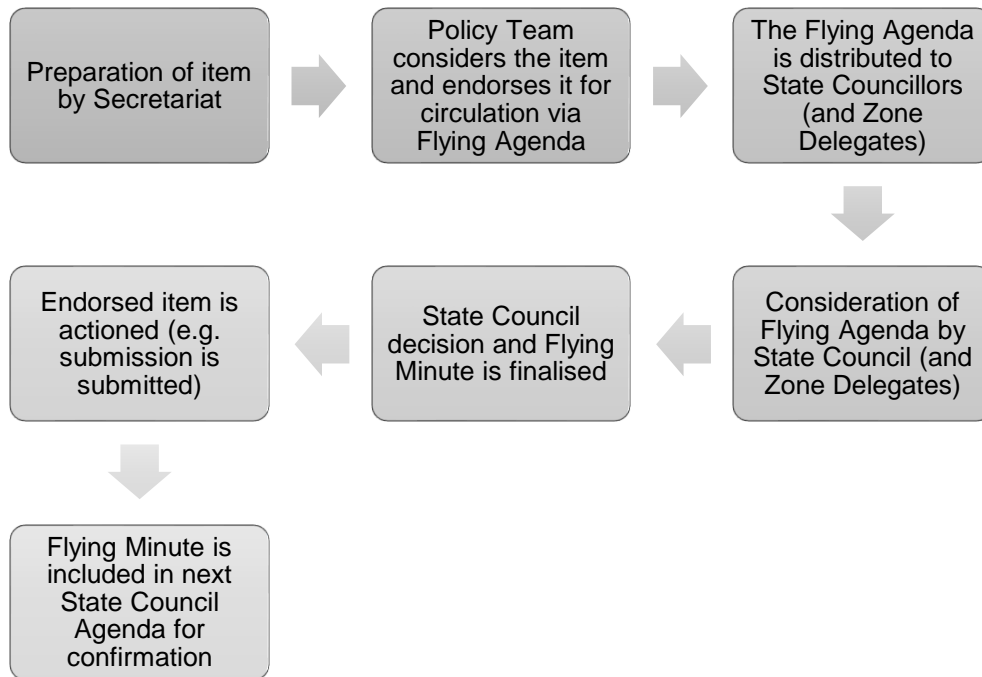
WALGA Recommendation

That GVROC note the State Council Flying Agenda Process.

Background:

State Council has five ordinary meetings per year. As a result, there are occasions when decisions need to be made or submissions need to be endorsed to meet external deadlines which do not fit within the existing State Council meeting schedule.

The first preference is always to seek an extension of time to enable the item to be considered by Zones and State Council through the usual Agenda process. However, if an extension of time is not granted, the item will need to be endorsed by State Council by way of a Flying Agenda. The process for a Flying Agenda is summarised below:



Flying Agendas are generally open to responses for 7 days.

Comment:

At the request of State Council, the Flying Agenda process has recently been amended to better include Zone Delegates in the decision-making process. The Zone Executive Officer will alert Delegates via email when a Flying Agenda is out for consideration by State Council and request that any comments or feedback be directed to the Zone's State Council representative(s). State Councillors are then able to consider the feedback of Zone Delegates when making their final decision.

Please note that any comments or feedback sent directly to WALGA, rather than the Zone's State Council representative(s), will not go towards the Flying Agenda. There is no requirement to respond to an email circulating a Flying Agenda, however if you would like to contribute this should be directed to your State Council representative(s).

All completed Flying Minutes are available to view on the WALGA website [here](#), and are included in the subsequent State Council Agenda as both previous Minutes (for confirmation) and as an Item for Noting.

For any questions about the State Council Flying Agenda process, please contact Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance on krobertson@walga.asn.au or (08) 9213 2036.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC note the WALGA State Council Flying Agenda Process as presented.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Seconded: Mayor Glenn Wilson, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder

Carried

8.4 **2024 Local Government Honours Program**

WALGA Recommendation

That GVROC note the 2024 Local Government Honours Program.

BACKGROUND:

The annual Local Government Honours Program affords public recognition and celebration of the outstanding achievements and lasting contributions made by Elected Members and Local Government officers to their respective Councils, the WA Local Government sector and the wider community.

There are six awards in the 2024 Program:

1. Local Government Medal
2. Life Membership
3. Eminent Service Award
4. Merit Award
5. Local Government Distinguished Officer Award
6. Young Achievers Award

Nominations will open on **Friday, 8 March 2024** and close at **5:00pm on Friday, 31 May 2024**.

Details on the 2024 Honours Program and Nomination Forms will be available from Friday, 8 March 2024 on the [WALGA website](#).

COMMENT:

For more information contact Meghan Dwyer, Executive Officer Governance, on 9213 2050 or via email at honours@walga.asn.au.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC note the WALGA information on the 2024 Local Government Honours Program

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**
 Seconded: Cr Sherryl Botting, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

9. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Policy Team Reports

The following provides an outline of the key activities of the Policy Teams since the last State Council meeting.

Policy Teams

9.1 Environment Policy Team Report

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

- 1. Note the election of Cr Les Price to the position of Chair of the Environment Policy Team, and**
- 2. Note the Environment Policy Team Report for the 16 February 2024 meeting.**

The Environment Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- Climate change
- Native vegetation and biodiversity
- Biosecurity
- Water resources
- Sustainability
- Waste management

The Environment Policy Team will be conducting its first meeting on 16 February 2024. Therefore, a verbal report will be provided at the March State Council meeting.

The name of the Policy Team Chair will be provided following the 16 February 2024 meeting, for noting.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC notes the recommendation by the Environment Policy Team as presented.

RESOLUTION:

**Moved: Cr Peter Grundy, Shire of Wiluna
Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**

Carried

9.2 Governance Policy Team Report

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

- 1. Note the election of Mayor Patrick Hall as the Chair of the Governance Policy Team.**
- 2. Note the matters considered by the Governance Policy Team at its meeting held on 6 February 2024.**
- 3. Determine to:**
 - a. retain the following Advocacy Positions unchanged:**
 - i. 2.1.8 Differential Rates**
 - ii. 2.1.16 Recovery of Mining Tenement Rates**
 - b. retire the following WALGA Advocacy Position:**
 - i. 2.5.1 Public Notices**
 - ii. 2.5.21 Recordings and Live Streaming of Council Meetings**

The Governance Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

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

1. Matters for State Council Decision

The Policy Team considered and recommended an item concerning Separation (Centre) and Edge Line Marking by Local Government on Low Volume Rural Roads be considered by State Council ([State Council Item 8.1](#))

2. Matters for State Council Noting

The Policy Team progressed actions and advocacy in relation to:

- extended lead time for quotes from Western Power for Headworks;
- changes to the Main Roads WA Traffic Management Company Registration Scheme; and
- required changes to the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFAWA).

The Policy Team noted progress in changes sought to regulations governing undertaking roadworks on Total Fire Ban days.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC notes the report and recommendations by the Infrastructure Policy Team

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Peter Grundy, Shire of Wiluna**
 Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Carried

9.4 People and Place Policy Team Report

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council

1. Note the election of President Cr Phillip Blight to the position of Chair of the People and Policy Team, and
2. Note the People and Place Policy Team Report for the 7 February 2024 meeting.

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

- Community
- Emergency Management
- Planning and Building

The People and Place Policy Team conducted its first meeting on 7 February 2024.

President Cr Phillip Blight was elected as Chair.

A full report was not available for inclusion in the March State Council agenda. Therefore, a verbal report will be provided to the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC notes the report by the People and Place Policy Team and recommendations as presented.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Peter Grundy, Shire of Wiluna**
 Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Carried

9.5 Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the resolutions of the 13 December 2023 Municipal Waste Advisory Council Meetings.

Executive Summary:

- This item summarises the proceedings of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) meeting held on Wednesday, 13 December 2023.

- Copies of MWAC Agendas and Minutes are available from WALGA staff on request.

Procedural Matters

- Cr Giorgia Johnson was elected unopposed as MWAC Chair and Cr Karen Wheatland was elected unopposed as MWAC Deputy Chair, for a two year term, expiring in December 2025.

Matters for Decision

- New Recovery Material Framework Advocacy Position and rescind Recycled Organics Applied to Land Policy Statement ([State Council Item 8.2](#)).

Matters for Discussion

MWAC considered the following matters:

- *Soft Plastics collective advocacy:* WALGA, with the other Local Government Associations, is advocating nationally against the proposed inclusion of soft plastics in kerbside recycling collections (by the Australian Food and Grocery Council). Trials of kerbside soft plastic collection in NSW and SA have yielded high participation rates, however have identified significant issues with resourcing and infrastructure at the participating Material Recovery Facilities (MRF). WALGA and MRF operators recently met with a soft plastics processor intending to establish a recycling plant in Perth and expressed support for a non-kerbside collection option. Collection of soft plastics through kerbside is not supported in WA because:
 - Soft plastic is a significant contaminant in the paper stream and is likely to become a greater issue with the upcoming paper export bans.
 - Consistent messaging across WA is not to place anything in bags in the Recycling bin – mixed messaging will be very difficult to overcome. Bagged material is 6% of contamination by weight in kerbside recycling.
 - MRF resourcing and infrastructure is not adequate to accommodate additional separating and sorting of bags.
 - Product stewardship should be in place for all packaging to ensure schemes have longevity before committing to collection options.
- *Waste Levy Policy Statement:* MWAC discussed the review of the Policy Statement, which is scheduled for early 2024. There was strong support from members for continued advocacy to hypothecate the full Levy to achieving strategic waste management outcomes. The WALGA Budget Submission includes the detail of how the full Levy allocation could be expended to support Local Government and the community to achieve State Waste Strategy Targets
- *Plan for Plastics – Compostable Produce Bags:* Following submissions from WALGA, and the retail sector, the Minister for Environment will amend the regulations implementing Western Australia’s Plan for Plastics to allow for produce bags that are certified as compostable and can be used as caddy liners for food organics garden organics (FOGO) systems. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation will consult with impacted industries on these issues to determine whether the ban on non-compostable produce bags should be extended to include barrier bags for meat and dairy products, and the need for a design standard. To ensure industry has sufficient time to prepare for this change, and to align with a similar change coming into effect in South Australia, the implementation date will be moved from 1 March 2024 to 1 September 2024.

RECOMMENDATION:

That GVROC note the resolutions of the 13 December 2023 Municipal Waste Advisory Council Meetings.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Seconded: Cr Sherryl Botting, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

10. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Organisational Key Activity Reports

10.1 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio

10.2 Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio

10.3 Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio

10.4 Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio

GVROC COMMENT:

GVROC note the Organisation Key Activity Reports as provided in State Council Agenda Items.

RESOLUTION: *Moved: Cr Peter Grundy, Shire of Wiluna*
 Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Carried

11. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Policy Forums and Other Reports

The following provides an outline of the key activities of the Association's Policy Forums that have met since the last State Council meeting.

11.1 President's Report

WALGA Recommendation

That the President's Report for March 2024 be received. (refer to Attachment 4)

11.2 CEO's Report

WALGA Recommendation

That the CEO's Report for March 2024 be received.

11.3 Ex Officio Reports

- The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas will provide the City of Perth Report to the meeting.
- LG Professionals WA State President, Mr Anthony Vuleta, will provide the LG Professionals report to the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC notes the President's and CEO's Reports for March 2024 and the Ex Officio reports to be presented at the meeting as received.

RESOLUTION: *Moved: Mayor Glenn Wilson, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder*
 Seconded: Mr Gary Gaffney, Shire of Wiluna

Carried

12. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – State Council Status Report

12.1 Complete Status Report on State Council Resolutions - To the March 2024 State Council Meeting

GVROC COMMENT:

Additional to the Complete Status Report on State Council Resolutions, **Attachment 5** provides the relevant Goldfields Esperance Country Zone Status Report.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC notes the Complete State Council Status Report to the March 2023 State Council meeting and the Goldfields Esperance Country Zone Status Report.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Seconded: Cr Sherryl Botting, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

13. LATE ITEMS as notified, introduced by decision of the Meeting

14. FUTURE MEETINGS

The following suggested dates in 2024 have been set for the remaining GVROC meetings.

- 22 March 2024 in Esperance (to be hosted by Shire of Esperance)
- 31 May 2024 in Norseman (hosting by the Shire of Dundas)
- 26 July 2024 in Kambalda (to be hosted by Shire of Coolgardie)
- 8 October 2024 (Date and Dinner to be confirmed aligned with WALGA AGM at Perth Convention Centre)
- 29 November 2024 in Laverton (to be hosted by Shire of Laverton)

The following are the WALGA State Council meeting dates in 2024 with suggested GVROC Zoom video conference meeting dates prior to these to inform the GVROC's representatives attending the meetings with relevant input for State Council Agenda Items:

- 1 May 2024 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **19 April 2024**
- 10 July 2024 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **21 June 2024**
- 5-6 September 2024 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **23 August 2024**
- 4 December 2024 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **15 November 2024**

15. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9:30am.