

South West Country Zone Minutes

24 November 2023

Shire of Capel

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South West Country Zone

Meeting held at the Shire of Capel

31 Forrest Road, Capel

Friday, 24 November 2023, meeting commenced at 9:00am

Minutes

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

We, the South West Country Zone of WALGA, acknowledge the Nyoongar people, the Traditional Custodians of this land, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance

Shire of Augusta Margaret River	President Cr Julia Meldrum Ms Stephanie Addison-Brown, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Boyup Brook	President Cr Richard Walker
Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes	President Cr Jenny Mountford Ms Nicole Gibbs, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
City of Bunbury	Cr Tresslyn Smith (deputy) Mr Alan Ferris, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
City of Busselton	Mayor Phill Cronin Mr Tony Nottle, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Capel	President Cr Doug Kitchen Gordon MacMile, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Collie	President Cr Ian Miffing Ms Nicole Wasmann, Acting Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Dardanup	President Cr Tyrrell Gardiner Mr, André Schönfeldt, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	President Cr Vivienne MacCarthy
Shire of Harvey	President Cr Michelle Campbell

Shire of Manjimup President Cr Donnelle Buegge
Mr Brian Robinson, Temporary Chief Executive Officer
non-voting delegate

Shire of Nannup President Cr Tony Dean
Mr David Taylor, Chief Executive Officer non-voting
delegate

**WA Local Government
Association Secretariat** Mr Tony Brown, Executive Director, Member Services Mr
Chris Hossen, Policy Manager, Planning and Building
Mr Simon Beaumont, Manager Media and
Communications

**South West Development
Commission** Ms Mellisa Teede, Chief Executive Officer
Mr Danny Griffin, Chair

RDA South West Mr Charles Jenkinson, Director Regional Development

Australia's South West Ms Catrin Allsop, Chief Executive Officer

Guest Speakers

Edith Cowan University Professor Cobie Rudd

**Department of Employment
and Workplace Relations** Ms Tanya Dennis

Apologies

City of Bunbury Mayor Jaysen De San Miguel

Shire of Boyup Brook Mr Leonard Long

Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup Mr Gary Hunt

Shire of Harvey Ms Annie Riordan

Department of Local Government,
Sport and Cultural Industries Mr Brendan McNally

3. INTRODUCTIONS

South West Country Zone delegates, new and continuing, provided a short introduction of themselves and their Council.

4. ELECTIONS

Pursuant to the WALGA Constitution, the WALGA Secretariat assumed the Chair for conducting the election of office bearers, State Council Representative and Deputy State Council Representative. Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services conducted the election.

Guidelines for elections were distributed to Member Councils via email dated 17 October 2023.

4.1 Elections of Chair and Deputy Chair of the South West Country Zone

The election for the Chair and Deputy Chair was conducted and the term set at two years expiring in November 2025, in line with the terms of State Council representatives and in sync with Local Government Elections.

Zone Chair

Written nominations that were received for the position of Chair are as follows:

- President Cr Julia Meldrum
- President Cr Tony Dean

Nominations were also called from the floor. No additional nominations were received from the floor.

President Cr Julia Meldrum withdrew her nomination for Zone Chair prior to the meeting commencing.

With only one candidate for the position of Zone Chair no election was held.

DECLARATION

That President, Cr Tony Dean is elected as Chair of the South West Country Zone for the term of 2 years, November 2023 to November 2025.

Deputy Zone Chair

No written nominations were received for the position of Deputy Chair.

Nominations were called from the floor.

Mayor Phil Nolan nominated President Cr Julia Meldrum. President Cr Meldrum accepted the nomination.

With only one candidate for the position of Deputy Chair no election was held.

DECLARATION

That President Cr Julia Meldrum is elected as Deputy Chair of the South West Country Zone for the term of 2 years, November 2023 to November 2025.

4.2 Elections of State Council Representatives and Deputy State Council Representatives to the South West Country Zone

In accordance with sub-clause 9(3) of the WALGA Constitution representatives and deputy representatives to the State Council shall be elected by Zones of the Metropolitan and Country constituencies for two (2) year terms, commencing from the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2023 and concluding on the day before the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2025.

For the South West Country Zone, there is one representative position on State Council and one deputy representative position.

State Councillor

The following written nomination were received for the position of State Council Representative:

- President Cr Julia Meldrum
- President Cr Tony Dean

Nominations were also called from the floor. No additional nominations were received from the floor.

President Cr Julia Meldrum withdrew her nomination for State Council Representative prior to the meeting commencing.

With only one candidate for the position of State Council Representative no election was held.

DECLARATION

That President Cr Tony Dean is elected as State Council Representative of the South West Country Zone to the State Council for the term of 2 years, December 2023 to December 2025.

Deputy State Councillor

No written nominations were received for the position of Deputy State Council Representative.

Nominations were called from the floor:

President Cr Tony Dean nominated President Cr Julia Meldrum. President Cr Meldrum accepted the nomination.

With only one candidate for the position of Deputy State Council Representative no election was held.

DECLARATION

That President Cr Julia Meldrum is elected as Deputy State Council Representative of the South West Country Zone to the State Council for the term of 2 years, December 2023 to December 2025.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

6.1 Attachments

The following were provided as attachments to the agenda:

1. South West Country Zone Minutes – 25 August 2023
2. WALGA President's Report
3. State Council Agenda link – [State-Council-Agenda-6-December-2023.pdf](#)
4. DLGSC November Update

7. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS

7.1 Shire of Capel

President Cr Doug Kitchen and Mr Gordon MacMile Chief Executive Officer

President Cr Doug Kitchen and Mr Gordon MacMile Chief Executive Officer provided an update to the meeting on priorities and key projects.

The presentation is **attached** to the minutes.

7.2 Professor Cobie Rudd – Edith Cowan University

Professor Cobie Rudd, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Regional Futures) and Vice-President from Edith Cowan University presented to the Zone on current projects and initiatives.

8. MINUTES

8.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the South West Country Zone meeting held Friday 25 August 2023 (Attachment 1)

The Minutes of the South West Country Zone meeting held on Friday, 25 August 2023 have previously been circulated to Member Councils and are provided as an attachment to the Agenda.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Julia Meldrum
Seconded: President Cr Doug Kitchen

That the Minutes of the South West Country Zone meeting held Friday, 25 August 2023 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

8.1.1 Business Arising

Nil.

9. ZONE BUSINESS

9.1 2024 September Regional State Council Meeting

By Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance

BACKGROUND

Each year, the WALGA State Council meets in a regional location hosted by a Zone. There are generally two regional State Council meetings per year – one hosted by a Metropolitan Zone and another hosted by a Country Zone. Regional meeting hosts are rotated between the Zones.

It is proposed that the September 2024 Regional State Council meeting be hosted by the South West Country Zone.

Regional meetings afford State Council the opportunity to meet with Elected Members and senior officers from Local Governments within a Zone, to discuss issues of local and regional significance. They also allow State Councillors to meet with other regional groups of interest to gain a first-hand appreciation of the various issues confronting Local Governments in each Zone.

The last time a regional State Council meeting was hosted by the South West Country Zone was in 2010 in Margaret River.

It is proposed that the 2024 September Regional meeting be held over two days, Thursday and Friday, 5-6 September.

The general requirements for a location to host the Regional meeting are:

- the ability to accommodate State Councillors and WALGA staff overnight (approx. 35 rooms required);
- a venue for the Zone Forum and State Council meeting with AV facilities (approx. 50 attendees for each); and
- a venue to host dinner for the WALGA group plus Zone members (approx. 60 attendees).

In terms of cost to the Zone, WALGA may request a contribution from Zone members for catering at the Zone Forum and dinner event on a per-head attended basis. WALGA would also be seeking use of Local Government facilities (if available) as a venue for the Zone Forum and State Council meeting.

WALGA is seeking the appointment of a host Local Government and one or more Zone representatives to act as liaison between WALGA and the Zone to plan the 2024 Regional State Council meeting, particularly in relation to venues and the format of the Zone Forum. This would normally be an officer from the Host Council.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Tony Dean

Seconded: Mayor Phil Cronin

That:

- 1. the South West Country Zone endorse the proposal to host the September 2024 Regional State Council meeting;**
- 2. the City of Busselton be appointed as the host Council; and**
- 3. Tony Nottle, CEO City of Busselton be appointed to act as the liaison between the Zone and WALGA in planning the Regional State Council meeting.**

CARRIED

9.2 Proposed Changes to the Regulations on Performing Road Works During a Total Fire Ban

By Max Bushell, WALGA

BACKGROUND

Recent changes to the Australian Fire Danger Rating System and Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) internal policies have resulted in an increase in the declaration of Total Fire Bans (TFB) across Western Australia.

This increase has resulted in frequent and substantive impacts to road works on Local Government roads with a consequent loss of productivity and increased risk for road users, as road repair issues are not able to be addressed in a timely fashion. DFES have identified some changes to the current regulations and have held information sessions outlining the proposed changes, as indicated in the presentation that was provided with the Agenda.

These changes acknowledge that a uniform approach to regulating road work during a TFB is not effective or applicable across the diverse spectrum of Local Government activities and landscapes in WA and greatly simplify the requirements placed on Local Governments with regard to performing road works during a TFB. Notwithstanding this change, the onus will remain on Local Governments to ensure that fire safety provisions, based on type of work, prevailing conditions, and work area, etc. are sufficient and that a risk assessment has been undertaken.

Noted

9.3 2025 Election Priorities – SWCZ Regionally Collaborative Approach

Coordinated by the Shire of Capel

Background

The South West Country Zone local governments took a united and collaborative approach to advancing regional- level and more localised priorities to the previous State and Federal.

The next State Election will be held on 8 March 2025. The next Federal Election is also expected to be held during 2025.

Recent discussions at SW Country Zone meetings have been to commence the development of electoral priorities during 2023, with a view to producing an advocacy document and lobbying strategy by mid-2024.

Initial discussion on priorities was sought at the April 2023 meeting to provide initial guidance to CEOs.

The South West CEOs met at a Shire of Capel hosted workshop on 19 May 2023 to develop initial ideas and potential requests, in relation to Federal and State election priorities as agreed. The workshop included:

- A review of the 2021 election priorities and reflection on the success (or otherwise) of each throughout the campaigns.*
- Consideration whether each individual initiative remained a priority or whether the circumstance had changed.*
- Preliminary development of potential election priorities for the 2025 cycle.*

Summary

Following an update to the SWALGA Country Zone meeting in June 2023, the South West LG CEOs met again in early July 2023 to further the develop the draft election priority information. This meeting focused on:

- Agreeing on separate regional-level and local individual LG election priorities.*
- Developing the regional-level priorities into key pillar areas of (working titles):*

- *Social and Community.*
- *Commercial Infrastructure.*
- *Public Infrastructure.*
- *Climate and Environment.*
- *Developing the detail regarding individual local government priorities, noting that some initiatives have localised importance and others more sub-regional.*
- *Also noted is that some local priorities will be potential targets for both State and Federal funding.*

Discussion

The preliminary work completed to date includes

1. *Regional-level (Attachment 1) LG election priorities with early commentary.*
2. *Local individual (Attachment 2) LG election priorities, noting information is to follow from Boyup Brook and Nannup.*

Next Steps

The agreed timeline to finalise the priorities and advocacy strategy is as follows:

- *August 2023 Country Zone Workshop – Agreed Prioritisation and Lobbying Approach*
- *October 2023 Local Government elections*
- *November 2023 Consideration of first draft advocacy document February 2024*
Final consideration

RESOLUTION

That the South West Country Zone, WALGA and Local Governments

1. *Notes the progress work on future election priorities*
2. *Discusses and finalises agreement on the regional-level priorities to progress.*
3. *Requests the SW CEOs continue to progress the advocacy priority work.*
4. *Seeks to host both a regional Cabinet meeting and a Director's General meeting as part of the future advocacy strategy.*

Item above is from the August Zone meeting and as per resolution above. Members may wish to discuss this item for further actions.

Noted

10. WALGA BUSINESS

10.1 WALGA Status Report

By Chantelle O'Brien, Zone Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

Status Report for November 2023 which contains WALGA's responses to the resolutions of previous Zone Meetings.

Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
23 June 2023 Zone Agenda Item 7.2 - Mining Tenements Applications – DMIRS Procedural Review	That the South West Country Zone request the WALGA State Council to adopt an advocacy position that seeks the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety to undertake: 1. A formal review of the current statutory consultation procedures as they relate to mining tenements; and 2. Improved public consultation for mining tenement applications, particularly for private landowners, regardless of the depth of land applicable.	The WALGA secretariat will review this request and provide a response for a future Zone meeting.	August 2023	Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services, tbrown@walga.asn.au 9213 2051
23 June 2023 Zone Agenda Item 7.7 - Mining Royalties Funding	That the South West Country Zone seeks the support of WALGA to both lobby for the establishment of a Resources Fund Payment to be collected and used within the South West region.	Royalties are a payment in recognition that minerals are owned by the people of Western Australia and that they should receive fair payment for the depletion of their natural resources. WA's resource endowments are owned by the whole state, rather than the communities where they are mined. While there is a clear need for additional funding to support regional communities, the proposal put forward by the South West Country Zone would not deliver sector-wide benefits and would be most appropriately pursued by the Zone.	August 2023	Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services, tbrown@walga.asn.au 9213 2051
26 August 2022 Zone Agenda Item 7.2 Renergi Waste Processing	That the South West Country Zone request WALGA to: 1. Adopt a position that supports the utilisation of emerging waste processing technologies; and 2. Advocate to the Minister for Environment to review the regulatory framework surrounding environmental approvals and operational obligations to allow new, alternative treatment processes and technologies that will reduce landfill reliance by improving resource recovery rates, including the processing of FOGO and un-separable, co-mingled material.	Following the Renergi presentation to the Environment Policy Team and MWAC meeting on 26 October 2022, further consideration was given by both groups at their December meeting to the Zone motion. Additional feedback from the Shire of Collie and Renergi was provided to the Policy Team and MWAC to inform their recommendation. That the Environment Policy Team and MWAC: 1. Do not support WALGA adopting a position that supports the utilisation of any particular waste processing technologies. 2. Notes that as part of the current Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Reform process, WALGA will advocate to ensure that the regulatory framework does not disadvantage new technologies which meet environmental and human health requirements and have the potential to assist Local Governments to meet	August 2023	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039

		the targets specified in the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy.		
23 June 2023 Zone Agenda Item 7.6 - Cessation of Funding – Regional Climate Alliance Program	That the South West Country Zone supports the request from the Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils Board and: 1. Requests WALGA advocate to the Minister for Environment; Climate Action for the reinstatement of the Regional Climate Alliance Program; 2. Writing directly to the South West Members of Parliament seeking the reinstatement of the Regional Climate Alliance Program.	The WALGA President wrote to the Minister for Environment and Climate Action, Hon Reece Whitby on 28 June 2023 to urge him to consider the results of the evaluation and funding for the Program as a priority. The Environment and Waste Policy Team noted the Zone resolution and that WALGA will continue to advocate for the continuation and expansion of the Regional Climate Alliance Program. WALGA raised this RCA program with the Minister for Climate Action on 17 October and the program is included in the 2024-25 WALGA Budget Submission.	November 2023	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039
3 May State Council Agenda Item 7.4 Speed Management Reform Advocacy Position	That the Speed Management Advocacy Position as follows, be endorsed: 1. <i>That WALGA supports Local Governments wishing to manage travel speeds, including speed limit changes, as a means of achieving the many health, social and environmental benefits for communities.</i> 2. <i>That Main Roads WA (MRWA) retain the overarching authority for speed limit setting/zoning.</i> 3. <i>That Main Roads WA speed zoning policies and processes be reformed so that Local Governments are more influential in the determination of speed limit decreases or increases for local roads.</i> a. <i>This will include applications that are deemed to be approved when the application:</i> i. <i>is based on assessments by competent Local Government practitioners,</i> ii. <i>contains evidence-based identification of the benefits,</i> iii. <i>contains preliminary designs for infrastructure safety upgrades associated with applications to increase speed limits, and</i> iv. <i>includes an engagement strategy for managing community and stakeholder expectations, <u>and provides a greater weighting for community views on speed changes.</u></i> b. <i>Allows for Main Roads WA to decline an application, within a mutually agreed timeframe, on the basis that it:</i> i. <i>does not meet the above criteria, and</i> ii. <i>provides specific evidence for declining the application.</i> 4. <i>That WALGA seeks to work with Main Roads WA and other stakeholders, to develop a speed management guide for Local Governments.</i>	State Council Resolution That the Speed Management Advocacy Position as follows, be endorsed: 1. That WALGA supports Local Governments wishing to manage travel speeds, including speed limit changes, as a means of achieving the many health, social and environmental benefits for communities. 2. That Main Roads WA (MRWA) retain the overarching authority for speed limit setting/zoning. 3. That Main Roads WA speed zoning policies and processes be reformed so that Local Governments are more influential in the determination of speed limit decreases or increases for local roads. a. This will include applications that are deemed to be approved when the application: i. is based on assessments by competent Local Government practitioners, ii. contains evidence-based identification of the benefits, iii. contains preliminary designs for infrastructure safety upgrades associated with applications to increase speed limits, and iv. includes an engagement strategy for managing community and stakeholder expectations. b. Allows for Main Roads WA to decline an application, within a mutually agreed timeframe, on the basis that it: i. does not meet the above criteria, and ii. provides specific evidence for declining the application. 4. That WALGA seeks to work with Main Roads WA and other stakeholders, to develop a speed management guide for Local Governments.	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031

23 June 2023 Zone Agenda Item 7.2 - Mining Tenements Applications – DMIRS Procedural Review	That the South West Country Zone request the WALGA State Council to adopt an advocacy position that seeks the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety to undertake: 1. A formal review of the current statutory consultation procedures as they relate to mining tenements; and 2. Improved public consultation for mining tenement applications, particularly for private landowners, regardless of the depth of land applicable.	The WALGA secretariat will review this request and provide a response for a future Zone meeting.	August 2023	Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services, tbrown@walga.asn. au 9213 2051
23 June 2023 Zone Agenda Item 7.7 - Mining Royalties Funding	That the South West Country Zone seeks the support of WALGA to both lobby for the establishment of a Resources Fund Payment to be collected and used within the South West region.	Royalties are a payment in recognition that minerals are owned by the people of Western Australia and that they should receive fair payment for the depletion of their natural resources. WA's resource endowments are owned by the whole state, rather than the communities where they are mined. While there is a clear need for additional funding to support regional communities, the proposal put forward by the South West Country Zone would not deliver sector-wide benefits and would be most appropriately pursued by the Zone.	August 2023	Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services, tbrown@walga.asn. au 9213 2051

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Doug Kitchen
Seconded: President Cr Julia Meldrum

That the South West Country Zone WALGA November 2023 Status Report be noted.

CARRIED

10.2 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda

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 full State Council Agenda can be found via link: [State-Council-Agenda-6-December-2023.pdf](#)

The Zone can provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation that is then presented to the State Council for consideration.

Matters for Decision

7.1 2023 Annual General Meeting Resolutions

That:

1. the following resolutions from the 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the People and Place Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:

5.1 Local Governments' representation at the State Administrative Tribunal relating to planning matters within its district

That WALGA lobby the State Government for legislative reform to enable Local Governments the automatic right to be a represented party at all State Administrative Tribunal hearings related to planning matters within its district.

5.2 Land Use Policy

That WALGA establish and promote policies to protect and prioritise the preservation of agricultural land against its displacement by non-agricultural activities that lead to a net reduction of the State's productive agricultural land.

5.4 Regional and Remote Housing

That WALGA advocates to the WA State and Commonwealth Governments to address the dire shortage of affordable key worker family housing options in regional and remote towns to encourage families to live and work in regional and remote towns. Social housing is addressed at both the State and Federal levels.

2. State Council notes that the following resolution is being considered in Agenda item 7.2 of this meeting Agenda:

5.3 Transparency – Management Order Determinations

That WALGA:

1. *Advocates for Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage to consult and collaborate with Local Governments in reviewing and publishing its policies, decision making criteria, guidelines and procedures associated with the administration of management orders;*
2. *Ensure the review recognises the cost burden on local governments in managing reserves and options for supporting local governments in meeting that responsibility; and*
3. *Calls for proactive consultation and advice to Local Government management bodies.*

7.2 Advocacy Position – Crown Land and Management Order Administration – Land Administration Act 1997

That WALGA endorse the below Advocacy Position:

Crown Land and Management Order Administration - Land Administration Act 1997

WALGA advocates to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) to:

1. Apply the following principles when dealing with matters affecting Local Government's role in managing Crown land:
 - a. Local Government is an equal partner with State Government in managing, developing and administration of Crown land for community benefit.
 - b. Local Government should be provided timely advice and consulted where State Government proposals impact management of or investment in Crown land.
 - c. Ensure timely communication with Local Government where DPLH intends to challenge an intention to levy leasing or land use revenues under a power to lease arrangement.
 - d. Decision-making criteria, policy and procedure transparency contributes to whole of government efficiency, effectiveness and accountability.
2. Publish the policies and procedures that underpin decision making regarding:
 - a. Establishing, varying or revoking management orders.
 - b. Leasing Crown land or facilities, subject to a management order.
 - c. Decision review where a management body or proponent lessee is dissatisfied with a decision or process.

7.3 Review of Public Open Space Advocacy Positions

That WALGA endorse:

1. the deletion of Advocacy Position 4.3 *Water Management*,
2. the deletion of Advocacy Position 4.4 *Public Open Space*; and
3. new Advocacy Position 6.11 *Public Open Space* as follows:

6.11 Public Open Space

New subdivisions and developments should provide appropriate Public Open Space (POS) or POS contributions to provide environmental benefits and meet the needs of the community.

The State Government should take a leadership role in the strategic planning of POS, in consultation with Local Government, including:

1. *Reviewing the requirement for a minimum 10 per cent of all new residential land to be provided as POS to determine if this metric is still appropriate.*
2. *Developing a 10+ year regional level sporting facilities plan to identify and prioritise gaps in regional sporting facilities and acquire and fund regional open spaces, specifically sporting facilities, in a timely manner to align with population growth.*
3. *Developing contemporary legislative and policy mechanisms to ensure that:*
 - a. *POS design and delivery:*
 - i. *appropriately allocates different POS uses and purposes, balancing environmental, recreational, sporting and community needs.*
 - ii. *does not have its use impeded by drainage and utilities facilities.*
 - iii. *is accessible and appropriately distributed.*
 - iv. *is cost effective to enable sustainable maintenance and replacement by Local Government.*
 - v. *is responsive to urban ecology, regional climatic conditions, and climate change.*
 - vi. *considers water requirements and availability as a priority, includes water sensitive urban design principles, and prioritises water allocations for the irrigation and maintenance of functional active recreational and sport facilities.*
 - b. *POS cash in lieu contributions are equitable, transparent, and simplified by:*
 - i. *streamlining the process to collect and expend cash in lieu contributions by delegating functions to Local Government.*
 - ii. *broadening how cash in lieu funds can be spent to include works beyond the current scope.*
 - iii. *allowing for the collection of cash in lieu contributions at development application stage and for all forms of subdivision, including two lot subdivisions or developments.*
 - iv. *investigating the option of a standard fixed rate contribution fee per lot or dwelling when contributions are intended for public open space upgrades.*
4. *Providing guidance documents and support to assist Local Governments with their strategic POS planning.*

7.4 2024 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members

That WALGA endorse the submission to the 2024 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members.

7.5 Household Hazardous Waste Policy Statement and Advocacy Position

That WALGA:

1. Rescind the 2003 WALGA *Household Hazardous Waste Policy Statement* and Advocacy Position 7.10 *Household Hazardous Waste*; and
2. Endorse a new Household Hazardous Waste Policy Statement and Advocacy Position as follows:

7.10 Household Hazardous Waste

1. *Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) is a small but significant component of the waste stream which requires specialised management strategies to protect human health, property and the environment.*
2. *This requires:*
 - a. *Effective Product Stewardship for all HHW; and*
 - b. *The maintenance and expansion of the HHW Program, funded by the State Government and Product Stewardship Schemes, to provide for the management of HHW collected from the community by Local Government.*

7.6 Waste Education Policy Statement and Advocacy Position

That WALGA:

1. Rescind the existing WALGA *Waste Management Education Policy Statement 2008* and Advocacy Position 7.8 *Waste Management Education*; and
2. Endorse a revised WALGA *Waste Education Policy Statement 2023* and Advocacy Position as follows:
 1. *Waste education is essential part of waste management that empowers the community to engage in waste avoidance, reuse and recovery, and to use services correctly.*
 2. *Effective waste education requires:*
 - a. *Consistent communications by all stakeholders to ensure messages are clear and the community has confidence in the information provided.*
 - b. *A strategic and long-term investment from the State Government, with funding mechanisms in place to support and enable collaboration between Local Governments and Regional Councils.*
 - c. *Recognition of waste education in the definition of ‘waste service’ in the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007, in order to allow a charge for waste education as part of the waste service charge.*
 - d. *Identification of priority problematic materials within the waste stream and ongoing advocacy for evidence based alternative approaches.*

7.7 Submission E-Waste Landfill Ban Regulations

That WALGA endorse the Submission on the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (e-waste) Regulations 2023*.

7.8 Submission on Philanthropic Engagement Framework for Emergency Management

That WALGA endorse the submission to the State Emergency Management Committee on the Draft *Philanthropic Engagement Framework for Emergency Management*.

7.9 Submission to the WA Action Plan for Young People Consultation Paper

That WALGA endorse the submission to the *WA Action Plan for Young People Consultation Paper*.

Policy Team and Committee Reports

- 8.1 Environment and Waste Policy Team Report
- 8.2 Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team Report
- 8.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report
- 8.4 People and Place Policy Team Report
- 8.5 Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report

Matters for Noting

- 9.1 Planning and Development Amendment Bill 2023 and Associated Regulations and Guidelines
- 9.2 WALGA Emergency Management Survey 2023
- 9.3 WALGA Submission on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Legislation dated 26 September 2023 and Update
- 9.4 Legal Response to the Local Government Approaches to Tree Retention Issues Paper
- 9.5 Flying Minute: Submission to the Review of the Main Roads Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Guidelines
- 9.6 Flying Minute – Draft Operational Policy 2.3: Planning for Public Open Space
- 9.7 Flying Minute – Submission on Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding Arrangements
- 9.8 Flying Minute – Objection to the 2023 WA Electoral Distribution Commission Proposed Boundaries
- 9.9 Flying Minute: Submission on the Exposure Draft of the Recycling and Waste Reduction (Export – Paper and Cardboard) Rules
- 9.10 Flying Minute: Submission on National Asbestos Strategic Plan
- 9.11 Flying Minute: Draft Code of Practice for On-Site Wastewater Disposal
- 9.12 Flying Minute – 2024-25 WALGA State Budget Submission

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Jenny Mountford
Seconded: President Cr Julia Meldrum

That the South West Country Zone:

1. Supports all Matters for Decision, Policy Team and Committee Reports as listed above in the 6 December 2023 State Council Agenda; and
2. Notes all Matters for Noting as listed in the 6 December 2023 State Council Agenda.

CARRIED

11. AGENCY REPORTS / PRESENTATIONS

11.1 WALGA President's Report

Chris Hossen provided a brief update to the Zone on behalf of the WALGA President.

11.2 South West Development Commission

Danny Griffin, Chair and Mellisa Teede, Chief Executive Officer, provided a brief update to the Zone.

11.3 Regional Development Australia – South West

Charles Jenkinson, Director Regional Development, provided a brief update to the Zone.

11.4 National Emergency Management Agency

Sam Ramsay, NEMA, provided a brief update to the Zone.

11.5 Department of Employment Workplace Relations

The Australian Government has recently employed an APS Employment Facilitator (Tanya Dennis) for the South West of Western Australia to operate within the Government's Local Jobs Program. This role has a focus on working with communities to transform to a net zero economy. Tanya is working alongside the existing Employment Facilitator for the South West, Maryanne Baker, who will continue supporting the general labour market.

This is one of four new Australian Government Employment Facilitator roles across Australia that have a focus on the net zero economy with the other regions being Fitzroy QLD, Hunter NSW, and Gippsland VIC.

Tanya Dennis, Employment Facilitator, provided further information on this to the Zone.

12. FINANCIAL REPORT

12.1 Financial Report

South West Country Zone			
Cashflow			
Period Ending 31 October 2023			
		Actual	Comments
		\$	
Opening Cash Balance		19,883	
Income			
Subscription Income		-	
Total Income		-	
Expenses			
Bank Charges		22	
Plaques		491	3 x plaques for retiring members
Total Expenses		513	
Closing Cash Balance		19,370	

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Michelle Campbell
Seconded: President Cr Richard Walker

That the South West Country Zone financial report for the period ending 31 October 2023 be received.

CARRIED

12.2 Subscriptions

As with previous years, Zone member subscriptions are due for the 2023-24 financial year.

Should the Zone wish to continue to contribute a \$600 subscription fee to fund regional projects and Zone activities when they arise, the Secretariat is seeking the Zone's endorsement to prepare invoicing for each member of the South West Country Zone.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Richard Walker
Seconded: President Cr Tyrell Gardiner

That member Local Governments be requested to contribute \$600 to the South West Country Zone account for the 2023-24 financial year.

CARRIED

13. EMERGING ISSUES

13.1 Policy Development – Member recognition

Discussion of a need for a Zone policy to guide future awarding of certificates of service recognition of Local Government officers and elected members by the Zone. Request for WALGA to develop a template Policy for use by the Zones.

13.2 Ongoing Stresses in the Region

Discussion on the emerging and ongoing stresses facing the region and what can be done to assist. Members noted housing, development pressures and recruitment issues and how these interrelate. The planned Zone election commitment document is seen as having a role in highlighting and addressing these pressures.

14. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS

14.1 Future Meeting Dates

Meeting dates for 2024 are listed below.

MEETING DATE	HOST LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Friday, 23 February 2024	Collie
Friday, 18 April 2024	Donnybrook-Balingup
Friday, 21 June 2024	Dardanup
Friday, 23 August 2024	Harvey
Friday, 22 November 2024	Manjimup

14.2 Next Meeting

MEETING DATE	HOST LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Friday, 23 February 2024	Collie

15. CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at **12:02pm**.