

# State Council Agenda 5 March 2025

Ordinary meeting no. 1 of 2025 of the Western Australian Local Government Association State Council to be held at ONE70, LV3, 170 Railway Parade, West Leederville at 3:15pm.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES.....</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1	Opening .....	4
1.2	Attendance .....	4
1.3	Apologies .....	5
<b>2</b>	<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>MINUTES.....</b>	<b>5</b>
4.1	Minutes of the State Council meeting held 6 December 2024.....	5
4.1.1	Business arising from the Minutes of the State Council meeting held 6 December 2024 .....	5
4.2	Flying Minute - Submission on the Productivity Commission Inquiry - Opportunities in the Circular Economy.....	5
4.2.1	Business arising from the Flying Minute- Submission on the Productivity Commission Inquiry - Opportunities in the Circular Economy .....	5
<b>5</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>EX OFFICIO REPORTS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
6.1	City of Perth Report .....	6
6.2	LG Professionals Report.....	6
<b>7</b>	<b>EMERGING ISSUES .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>MATTERS FOR DECISION.....</b>	<b>7</b>
8.1	Climate Change Advocacy Position .....	7
8.2	Waste Management Legislation Advocacy Position.....	12
	<b>MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY STATE COUNCILLORS (UNDER SEPARATE COVER) .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS .....</b>	<b>16</b>
9.1	Infrastructure Policy Team Report .....	16
9.2	People and Place Policy Team Report.....	18
9.3	Governance Policy Team Report .....	19
9.4	Environment Policy Team Report .....	20
9.5	Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report.....	22
<b>10</b>	<b>MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>23</b>
10.1	2025 Federal Election .....	23
10.2	2025 State Election .....	25
10.3	Large Scale Renewable Energy Update.....	28
10.4	2024 CoastWA Local Government Survey .....	31
10.5	Polyphagous shot-hole borer Update .....	33
10.6	December 2024 Economic Briefing.....	36
10.7	Flying Minute Submission on the Productivity Commission Inquiry – Opportunities in the Circular Economy.....	38
<b>11</b>	<b>ORGANISATION REPORTS.....</b>	<b>40</b>
11.1	Key Activity Reports.....	40
11.1.1	Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio.....	40
11.1.2	Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio.....	45
11.1.3	Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio.....	48
11.1.4	Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio.....	53
11.2	President's Report.....	58
11.3	CEO's Report .....	58

<b>12</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL ZONE RESOLUTIONS .....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING.....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>CLOSURE .....</b>	<b>58</b>
	<b>STATUS REPORT ON STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS.....</b>	<b>59</b>

# 1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

## 1.1 OPENING

## 1.2 ATTENDANCE

<b>Members</b>	WALGA President - <b>Chair</b>	President Cr Karen Chappel AM JP
	WALGA Deputy President	
	Central Metropolitan Zone	Cr Paul Kelly
	Avon-Midland Country Zone	President Chris Antonio
	Central Country Zone	President Cr Phillip Blight
	Central Metropolitan Zone	Cr Helen Sadler
	East Metropolitan Zone	Cr John Daw (Deputy)
	East Metropolitan Zone	Cr Haeden Miles
	Gascoyne Country Zone	President Eddie Smith
	Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	President Cr Laurene Bonza
	Great Eastern Country Zone	Cr Stephen Strange
	Great Southern Country Zone	Cr Scott Crosby
	Kimberley Country Zone	President Chris Mitchell JP
	Murchison Country Zone	President Cr Les Price
	North Metropolitan Zone	Cr Michael Dudek
	North Metropolitan Zone	Cr Lewis Hutton
	North Metropolitan Zone	Cr Bronwyn Smith
	Northern Country Zone	President Cr Liz Sudlow (Deputy)
	Peel Country Zone	To be confirmed
	Pilbara Country Zone	Cr Wendy McWhirter-Brooks
	South East Metropolitan Zone	Mayor Patrick Hall
	South East Metropolitan Zone	Mayor Terresa Lynes
	South Metropolitan Zone	Mayor Logan Howlett JP
	South Metropolitan Zone	Cr Karen Wheatland
	South Metropolitan Zone	Cr Barry Winmar
	South West Country Zone	President Cr Tony Dean
<b>Ex Officio</b>	Local Government Professionals WA President	Mr Anthony Vuleta
<b>Observers</b>		
<b>Secretariat</b>	Chief Executive Officer	Mr Nick Sloan
	Executive Director Member Services	Mr Tony Brown
	Executive Manager Infrastructure	Mr Ian Duncan
	Executive Manager Policy	Ms Nicole Matthews
	Executive Manger Advocacy	Ms Rachel Horton
	Chief Financial Officer	Mr Rick Murray
	Manager Governance and Procurement	Ms Felicity Morris
	Manager Association and Corporate Governance	Ms Kathy Robertson
	Executive Officer Governance	Ms Meghan Dwyer

### 1.3 APOLOGIES

**Members** East Metropolitan Zone President Paige McNeil  
Northern Country Zone President Cr Kirrilee Warr

**Ex Officio** The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor – City of Perth Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas

## 2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

WALGA acknowledges the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community. We embrace the vast Aboriginal cultural diversity throughout Western Australia, including Boorloo (Perth), on the land of the Whadjuk Noongar People, where WALGA is located and we acknowledge and pay respect to Elders past and present.

WALGA is committed to supporting the efforts of WA Local Governments to foster respectful partnerships and strengthen relationships with local Aboriginal communities.

## 3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 4 MINUTES

### 4.1 MINUTES OF THE STATE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 6 DECEMBER 2024

#### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the WALGA State Council meeting held on [6 December 2024](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

### 4.1.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE STATE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 6 DECEMBER 2024

### 4.2 FLYING MINUTE - SUBMISSION ON THE PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION INQUIRY - OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

#### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the [Flying Minute - Submission on the Productivity Commission Inquiry - Opportunities in the Circular Economy](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

### 4.2.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE- SUBMISSION ON THE PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION INQUIRY - OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

## **5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Pursuant to our Code of Conduct, State Councillors must declare to the Chair any potential conflict of interest they have in a matter before State Council as soon as they become aware of it.

## **6 EX OFFICIO REPORTS**

### **6.1 CITY OF PERTH REPORT**

The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas is an apology for the meeting.

### **6.2 LG PROFESSIONALS REPORT**

Mr Anthony Vuleta, President, LG Professionals WA, will provide a report to the meeting.

## **7 EMERGING ISSUES**

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

## 8 MATTERS FOR DECISION

### 8.1 CLIMATE CHANGE ADVOCACY POSITION

*By Jade Mains, Senior Policy Advisor Environment*

#### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council replace the 2018 Climate Change Policy Statement Advocacy Position 4.1 Climate Change with the following advocacy position:**

***Climate Change significantly impacts Local Governments' operations and responsibilities, as well as their communities.***

***Local Government is committed to taking climate action, including by:***

- ***reducing operational emissions in line with Australian and Western Australian Government 2050 net zero targets***
- ***providing leadership and support to their communities to reduce carbon emissions***
- ***embedding climate risk management into their operations to enhance adaptation and build community resilience to the impacts of climate change***
- ***working with other levels of Government and key stakeholders to ensure policy and on-ground programs are effective, equitable and targeted.***

***WALGA calls on the Australian and Western Australian Governments to provide the necessary climate leadership, coordination, and action to:***

1. ***Ensure Australia and Western Australia meet net zero emissions targets through:***
  - a. ***enacting legislation which sets clear, measurable targets for emission reduction***
  - b. ***developing and funding coordinated emissions reduction policies, guidance and programs***
  - c. ***acknowledging the role of Local Government as an implementation partner in emissions reduction policy and planning.***
2. ***Empower Local Government to accelerate adaptation and build resilience in their communities through:***
  - a. ***ensuring the roles and responsibilities set out under the Council of Australian Governments Roles and Responsibilities for Climate Change Adaptation in Australia are implemented and adequately resourced***
  - b. ***providing up to date, consistent and accessible data to enable evidence-based decision making and investment***
  - c. ***developing national guidance on adaptation responses to facilitate coordinated and equitable planning and implementation.***
3. ***Provide funding and resources and support to Local Government to enable on-ground implementation, including for:***
  - a. ***the implementation of the Regional Climate Alliance Program across Western Australia***
  - b. ***the establishment and maintenance of corporate emission inventories and action plans***
  - c. ***providing transformational investment to facilitate emission reduction activities***

- d. undertaking climate risk assessments and the development of adaptation action plans*
- e. a dedicated adaptation fund to address localised climate risks and build climate resilience.*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA's current climate change [Policy Statement](#) and [Advocacy Position](#) were endorsed by State Council in 2018.
- There have been significant legislative and policy changes at both the Australian and State Government level since that time. The impacts of climate change are also being increasingly felt across Western Australia, putting Local Government in a challenging position with limited resources and support to mitigate emissions and adapt.
- Feedback from the sector through climate surveys, undertaken every two years, and targeted consultation confirms that significant resourcing and funding gaps exist for Local Government to effectively respond to climate change.
- The updated Advocacy Position focuses on the urgency and scale of climate impacts and calls for a comprehensive framework, and action, to enable Local Government to manage the impacts of climate change and build resilient communities.
- The Environment Policy Team endorsed the Advocacy Position at their 11 December 2024 meeting.

## ATTACHMENT

- [Climate Change Legislative and Policy Context](#)

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The revised advocacy position is intended to be an overarching sector position on climate change. Other advocacy positions, including Urban Forest (4.5), Renewable Energy (6.16, 6.17, 6.18), Emergency Management (8.1, 8.2, 8.11) and Coastal Planning (6.8) provide a sector position on specific climate related matters.

The **existing** [Policy Statement](#) and [Advocacy Position](#) is:

### **4.1 Climate Change**

*Local Government acknowledges:*

- 1. The science is clear: climate change is occurring and greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are the dominant cause.*
- 2. Climate change threatens human societies and the Earth's ecosystems.*
- 3. Urgent action is required to reduce emissions, and to adapt to the impacts from climate change that are now unavoidable.*
- 4. A failure to adequately address this climate change emergency places an unacceptable burden on future generations.*

*Local Government is committed to addressing climate change. Local Government is calling for:*

- 1. Strong climate change action, leadership and coordination at all levels of government.*
- 2. Effective and adequately funded Commonwealth and State Government climate change policies and programs.*



It is proposed that the current advocacy positions be **replaced** with:

### **Climate Change**

*Climate Change significantly impacts Local Governments' operations and responsibilities, as well as their communities.*

*Local Government is committed to taking climate action, including by:*

- *reducing operational emissions in line with Australian and Western Australian Government 2050 net zero targets*
- *providing leadership and support to their communities to reduce carbon emissions*
- *embedding climate risk management into their operations to enhance adaptation and build community resilience to the impacts of climate change*
- *working with other levels of Government and key stakeholders to ensure policy and on-ground programs are effective, equitable and targeted.*

*WALGA calls on the Australian and Western Australian Governments to provide the necessary climate leadership, coordination, and action to:*

1. *Ensure Australia and Western Australia meet net zero emissions targets through:*
  - a. *enacting legislation which sets clear, measurable targets for emission reduction*
  - b. *developing and funding coordinated emissions reduction policies, guidance and programs*
  - c. *acknowledging the role of Local Government as an implementation partner in emissions reduction policy and planning.*
2. *Empower Local Government to accelerate adaptation and build resilience in their communities through:*
  - a. *ensuring the roles and responsibilities set out under the Council of Australian Governments Roles and Responsibilities for Climate Change Adaptation in Australia are implemented and adequately resourced*
  - b. *providing up to date, consistent and accessible data to enable evidence-based decision making and investment*
  - c. *developing national guidance on adaptation responses to facilitate coordinated and equitable planning and implementation.*
3. *Provide funding and resources and support to Local Government to enable on-ground implementation, including for:*
  - a. *the implementation of the Regional Climate Alliance Program across Western Australia*
  - b. *the establishment and maintenance of corporate emission inventories and action plans*
  - c. *providing transformational investment to facilitate emission reduction activities*
  - d. *undertaking climate risk assessments and the development of adaptation action plans*
  - e. *a dedicated adaptation fund to address localised climate risks and build climate resilience.*

### **BACKGROUND**

There have been significant legislative and policy changes since WALGA's 2018 Climate Change Policy Statement and Advocacy Position were endorsed. The Australian Government enacted the *Climate Change Act 2022*, setting targets for greenhouse gas emissions: a 43% reduction below 2005 levels by 2030 and net zero by 2050. The WA Government introduced the *Climate Bill 2023*, aiming for an 80% reduction in WA Government emissions by 2030 and a state target of net zero by 2050. The State and

Australian Governments have also released a suite of policies addressing mitigation and adaptation action.

Climate science and projections are also becoming clearer about the risks posed by climate change and the need for action. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) [2023 Report](#) states that climate change poses a significant threat to human well-being and planetary health, emphasising the need for urgent action to secure a sustainable future and an integrated adaptation and mitigation effort.

Local Governments and their communities are on the frontline of dealing with increasing climate risks and the associated impacts. 60 WA Local Governments are signatories to the [WALGA Climate Change Declaration](#) which represents over 87% of the State's population. Making a declaration demonstrates a Local Government's ongoing commitment to locally appropriate climate action to both mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

However, Local Government continues to face substantial challenges in addressing climate change due to limited funding and support from the Australian and State Governments. Funding and capacity constraints can make undertaking emissions reduction and adaptation actions particularly challenging for smaller regional Local Governments, whose assets and communities may be more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as extreme weather events.

In 2021-23, WALGA was successful in securing State Government funding to deliver a [Regional Climate Alliance \(RCA\) Pilot Program](#), an initiative under the [Western Australian Climate Policy](#). Modelled on successful programs in other jurisdictions, two groups of Local Governments, the South Coast Alliance and Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils focused on accelerating climate action at the regional scale. WALGA continues to [advocate to the State Government](#) to reinstate the program and expand it statewide.

To develop the updated Advocacy Position, WALGA ran a workshop with Local Government officers to establish the parameters for the review. Climate Change survey data, collected in 2020, 2022 and 2024, also informed the development of the updated Advocacy Position. WALGA also participated in an evaluation of the RCA Pilot Program with State Government. The themes from the survey data, consultations and Pilot evaluation, were:

- in addition to signing WALGA's Climate Change Declaration, many Local Governments are embedding climate change considerations into their strategic community plans, policies and operations
- of the 139 WA Local Governments, 110 (80% of Local Governments) are taking at least one significant action relating to climate change
- the biggest barrier to accelerating action at the local level is the lack of targeted funding and support. This is particularly significant for regional Local Governments.

The draft updated Advocacy Position was provided to relevant Local Government officers for comment and their feedback was incorporated.

## **COMMENT**

The updated Advocacy Position builds on the 2018 position, acknowledging the substantial shift in policy development and public sentiment on climate change. The updated Position therefore focuses on the practical actions that will enable a coordinated and strategic framework to reduce emissions and respond to the impacts of climate change.

Local Governments continue to demonstrate leadership in climate action by responding and managing impacts at a local scale, however, the position reflects the need for greater funding and support from the Australian and State Governments.

The updated Advocacy Position, together with climate change-related advocacy positions in the areas of emergency management, urban forests, renewable energy, coastal planning, and water resources (upcoming), will provide a sound basis for WALGA's ongoing climate change advocacy and policy development.

## 8.2 WASTE MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION ADVOCACY POSITION

*By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager Environment and Waste*

### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council replace the Waste Management Legislation Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 7.1 Waste Management Legislation with the following advocacy position:**

- 1. *Local Government supports Australian and State Government waste management legislation which:***
  - a. includes requirements for national and state waste strategies which support Local Governments to implement the strategies and achieve targets***
  - b. focuses on coordinated action and clear roles and responsibilities***
  - c. establishes a lead agency for waste management***
  - d. establishes and maintains a regulated product stewardship framework for all products entering the Australian market***
  - e. includes provisions to optimise market development and participation in waste processing.***
- 2. *Local Government calls for the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007 to be amended to include:***
  - a. Waste education in the definition of Waste Services***
  - b. Circular Economy principles.***

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- WALGA's current [Waste Management Legislation Policy Statement](#) and [Advocacy Position](#) were adopted in 2004.
- The Policy Statement outlines Local Government's position on waste management legislation in Western Australia and sets out the key objectives waste management legislation should achieve.
- WALGA used the Waste Management Policy Statement to inform advocacy on the development, and reviews, of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* (WARR Act).
- The current Advocacy Position, and many of the elements in the policy statement, are no longer relevant as they have been achieved.
- The revised Advocacy Position focuses on both Australian and State Government legislation and reflects the shift in focus from traditional waste management towards a circular economy approach.
- The Municipal Waste Advisory Council endorsed the new Advocacy Position at its meeting on 11 December 2024.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The existing [Policy Statement](#) and [Advocacy Position](#) is:

*Local Government supports waste management legislation that references the principles of Sustainability and the Waste Hierarchy.*

*To be effective, waste management legislation should include the following primary objectives:*

- 1. Protection of human health and the natural environment;*
- 2. Minimise resource consumption;*
- 3. Minimise waste; and*
- 4. Effect the transition to a waste-free society.*

It is proposed that the current advocacy positions be **replaced** with:

- 1. Local Government supports Australian and State Government Waste Management Legislation which:*
  - a. includes requirements for national and state waste strategies which support Local Governments to implement the strategies and achieve targets*
  - b. focuses on coordinated action and clear roles and responsibilities*
  - c. establishes a lead agency for waste management*
  - d. establishes and maintains a regulated product stewardship framework for all products entering the Australian market*
  - e. includes provisions to optimise market development and participation in waste processing.*
- 2. Local Government calls for the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007 to be amended to include:*
  - a. Waste education in the definition of Waste Services*
  - b. Circular economy principles.*

## **BACKGROUND**

WALGA used the Waste Management Legislation Policy Statement as a reference point in the development, and both reviews, of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* (WARR Act). There have not been any significant changes to the WARR Act since it was enacted.

The national waste legislation, the *Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020* (RaWR Act), is being reviewed currently. The development of an updated Advocacy Position will assist in providing input to the review.

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council endorsed the new Advocacy Position at their meeting on 11 December 2024.

## **COMMENT**

Local Government feedback, through both reviews of the WARR Act and in the development of this Advocacy Position, identified key areas to include in the revised position. These areas reflect the changes in approach to waste management since 2007, when the WARR Act was introduced, including a shift of thinking in relation to waste management, particularly with the advent of circular economy principles, and the increased understanding of the importance of waste education and behaviour change.

The Advocacy Position focuses on the importance of waste strategies (at the national and state level), coordinated action, clear roles and responsibilities, a lead agency for waste management and effective product stewardship provisions. Specifically, for the WARR Act, amendments are suggested to include waste education and circular economy principles.

**MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY STATE COUNCILLORS (UNDER SEPARATE COVER)**

Items Under Separate Cover to State Council only.

## 9 POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 9.1 INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY TEAM REPORT

*By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager, Infrastructure*

#### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council:**

- 1. Note the report from the Infrastructure Policy Team for the 5 March 2025 meeting.**
- 2. Determine to:**
  - a. Delete Advocacy Position 5.2.8 (Towards Zero Road Safety Strategy 2008 – 2020).**
  - b. Amend the title of Advocacy Position 5.2.7 from Road Safety Strategy (Imagine Zero) to Driving Change Road Safety Strategy 2020-2030.**
  - c. Delete the fourth dot point in Advocacy Position 5.2.7 “...the retention of WA’s Default Open Speed Limit at 110 km per hour and opposes the proposed reduction to 100 km per hour..”**

*The Infrastructure Policy Team includes the following subject areas:*

- *Transport*
- *Infrastructure*
- *Road Safety*
- *Underground power*
- *Street lighting*

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the Infrastructure Policy Team at its meeting held on 27 November 2024.

#### **1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION**

WALGA's advocacy positions are reviewed and updated to ensure that they remain contemporary. The Towards Zero Road Safety Strategy 2008 – 2020 was superseded with “Driving Change, Road Safety Strategy for Western Australia 2020 – 2030”. Advocacy Position 5.2.7 refers to this, the current strategy.

Advocacy Position 5.2.7 was endorsed by State Council during the consultation phase of the current road safety strategy. At that time the name of the strategy had not been determined. The proposed title change reflects the final name of the strategy.

In May 2023 WALGA's State Council adopted advocacy position 5.2.3 Speed Management Reform which provides a set of principles for guiding WALGA's advocacy on the many and varied aspects of the complex topic of travel speeds in the context of the road networks managed by the 139 Local Governments in WA. It is proposed that this May 2023 advocacy position replaces the previous position in scope, currency and utility.

The previous position was established on the basis of consultation and feedback (by a consultant on behalf of the WA Government) from some Local Governments in the early 2000s. Both the consultation question and the position are narrow and specific in scope.



## **2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING**

The Policy Team progressed actions and advocacy in relation to:

- Regional telecommunications service levels, including impact of closure of the 3G network.
- Development of contemporary advocacy positions relating to active transport.

## 9.2 PEOPLE AND PLACE POLICY TEAM REPORT

*By Nicole Matthew, Executive Manager Policy*

### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council note the People and Place Policy Team meeting report for the 5 March 2025 meeting.**

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

- *Community*
- *Emergency Management*

The People and Place Policy Team have not had a meeting since the last State Council meeting in December 2024.

### 9.3 GOVERNANCE POLICY TEAM REPORT

*By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services*

#### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council note the Governance Policy Team meeting report for the 5 March 2025 meeting.**

*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*

The Governance Policy Team have not had a meeting since the last State Council meeting in December 2024.

The next meeting is scheduled for March.

## 9.4 ENVIRONMENT POLICY TEAM REPORT

*By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy*

### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the Environment Policy Team meeting report to the 5 March 2025 meeting.

The Environment Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- *Climate change*
- *Native vegetation and biodiversity*
- *Biosecurity*
- *Water resources*
- *Sustainability*
- *Planning and building*

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the Environment Policy Team at its meeting held on 11 December 2024.

### 1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION

The Environment Policy Team agreed to recommend that State Council replace WALGA's existing Advocacy Position 4.1 Climate Change (see [item 8.1](#)).

### 2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING

[Item 10.5](#): Polyphagous shot-hole borer Update

The Policy Team discussed the following matters referred by Zones:

- Whale carcass management: Goldfields Esperance Country Zone requests that WALGA advocate for a government policy change to allow towing of whale carcasses before they wash ashore. WALGA notes the feedback and will investigate if there is further action on the issue.
- Service Stations / Sensitive Land uses: South Metropolitan Zone requests that WALGA supports the review of the EPA and advocates for the review of the GS3. WALGA will raise the need for a review of this Guideline through its representation on the EPA Stakeholder Reference Group, then consider further advocacy on this matter.
- State Planning Policy 3.6 - Infrastructure Contributions (Community Infrastructure Cap): North Metropolitan Zone recommends that WALGA advocate to the State Government for indexation of the community infrastructure cap defined in the State Planning Policy. WALGA made a submission strongly opposing the introduction of a contribution cap. WALGA is also working with the Growth Alliance Perth and Peel Local Governments to develop a set of advocacy positions in relation to the development contribution plan arrangements.

### **3. PORTFOLIO UPDATES**

WALGA staff provided the Policy Team with updates on:

- Polyphagous shot-hole borer
- Review of the DAP advocacy position
- Avian Influenza (H5 Clade 2.3.4.4b)
- National Water Agreement.

The Policy Team also noted that the development of an updated Water Advocacy Position is underway.

## 9.5 MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL (MWAC) REPORT

*By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste*

### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council note the Municipal Waste Advisory Council report to the 5 March 2025 meeting.**

This report provides an update on matters considered since the last State Council meeting by the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC), at a meeting held on 11 December 2024.

### **1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION**

MWAC agreed to replace the Waste Management Legislation Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 7.1 Waste Management Legislation (see [item 8.2](#)).

### **2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING**

MWAC considered the following matters:

- Circular Economy Advocacy Position: WALGA's advocacy in relation to circular economy has identified that action is required from all levels of Government. The development of an advocacy position on Circular Economy is far broader than the waste management considerations. Comprehensive consultation on the advocacy position is planned for 2025.
- E-Cigarette Collection Study: Following the successful completion of the Collection Study, MWAC discussed advocacy options to ensure the community access to safe disposal/recycling avenues for e-cigarettes, with a focus on minimising risks to waste management collection and processing infrastructure.
- Waste Processing Contingency Planning: WALGA has consistently advocated for effective contingency planning for waste management, most recently as part of the review of the State Waste Strategy. Several recent issues have highlighted the challenges facing the sector and the limited options for processing of some materials. MWAC discussed governance models and contingency planning options for Western Australia.

### **3. UPDATES**

MWAC noted the following updates:

- Policy Statement Review Update
- Better Practice Document Review Update
- Review of DWER Waste Education
- Review of Recycling and Waste Reduction Act
- Review of Local Government Waste Reporting Requirements
- Queensland Fruit Fly (Qfly) Outbreak
- MWAC 30 Year Anniversary.

## 10 MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

### 10.1 2025 FEDERAL ELECTION

*By Dana Mason, External Affairs Manager*

#### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council note the update on the 2025 Federal Election.**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- The Federal election is due to be held on or before 17 May. Recent speculation suggests that a date in mid-April is likely.
- The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) will run a Federal Election Campaign and has prepared a campaign website and assets that Local Governments can use to promote and support the campaign issues.
- To complement ALGA's advocacy, WALGA has prepared a policy platform highlighting priority issues for WA Local Governments.
- The document will form the basis of WALGA's advocacy leading into the Federal election and has been distributed to WA Members of Parliament and candidates.

#### **ATTACHMENT**

- [WALGA 2025 Federal Election Priorities](#)

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Federal election is due to be held on or before 17 May. Recent speculation suggests that a date in mid-April is likely.

ALGA will be running a public, national election campaign on behalf of the Local Government sector, seeking funding commitments from the major parties in a number of important areas, including:

- \$1.1 billion per year for enabling infrastructure to unlock housing supply (the Coalition has essentially already agreed to this through their \$5 billion Housing Infrastructure Programme)
- \$500 million per year for community infrastructure
- \$600 million per year for safer local roads
- \$900 million per year for increased Local Government emergency management capability and capacity, and
- \$400 million per year for climate change adaptation.

The campaign will include a dedicated website, and collateral that Local Governments can promote and use in their own discussions with candidates. These will be shared with WALGA members in coming weeks.

The ALGA President wrote to the Government and the Opposition in January outlining these funding asks ahead of the election and requesting meetings with key Ministers and Shadow Ministers to discuss these policy asks in further detail. It has also provided a 2025-26 Budget Submission to the Commonwealth Treasury that focuses on these priority areas.

To complement ALGA's election advocacy, WALGA has also prepared a policy platform highlighting priority issues for WA Local Governments, including:

- *Community Infrastructure* – additional, ongoing formula-based funding streams for Local Governments to provide certainty and enable effective planning for community needs.
- *Coastal Management* – Develop a National Coastal Hazards Adaptation Strategy, supported by an ongoing funding program.
- *Emergency Management* – Act on the findings of the Colvin Review, Review the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements and incorporate betterment, enhance training for Local Government Emergency Management practitioners.
- *Regional Health* – Address the systemic failures in regional primary health care provision through the development of adequate and appropriate funding models.
- *Safer Roads* – Funding commitment for the Australian Government's contribution to applying proven safety countermeasures on 439 WA Local Government Roads, totalling 8,208km.
- *Telecommunications* – Introduce measures to improve the adequacy of telecommunications in regional and peri-urban areas.

WALGA has provided this document to all relevant Ministers, WA Members of Parliament and candidates and is seeking meetings to further discuss these issues.

#### **COMMENT**

The Federal election presents a crucial opportunity for Local Governments to shape public policy and secure support from major parties for their priorities. With the 2025 Federal Election expected to be closely contested, there will be heightened competition for ideas and influence. The presentation of WALGA's Federal Election Priorities, accompanied by active engagement with relevant Ministers, WA Federal Members and candidates, aims to ensure that the issues facing WA Local Governments are effectively addressed and prioritised by an incoming Government.



## 10.2 2025 STATE ELECTION

By Dana Mason, External Affairs Manager

### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council note the update on the 2025 State Election campaign.**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- WALGA's State Election campaign has been running since November 2024, and aims to secure commitments from the major parties to the priority areas identified in *The West at its Best* policy platform.
- Since the beginning of the year, parties have been announcing a raft of commitments for the next term.
- WALGA has been successful in securing commitments to a range of initiatives that are aligned with our election priorities.

### **BACKGROUND**

The State Election will be held on 8 March.

WALGA has been working to maximise the opportunities the 2025 State Election will bring for Local Governments through a range of activities.

- WALGA's 2024-25 State Budget Submission was framed with an eye to the 2025 Election.
- In March 2024, a workshop was held with the State Council to discuss the issues and focus areas for WALGA in the lead up to the State Election.
- WALGA has developed "The West at its Best" election policy platform and public campaign.

### **State Election Media Campaign**

WALGA has generated significant earned media in relation to the State Election priorities, with 664 mentions of WALGA and President Karen Chappel from November to January. This equates to seven mentions a day.

Paid media as part of the public campaign has resulted in 4.6m impressions served across social, digital, out of home and outdoor media across WA. The paid and earned media has driven over 37,000 visits to the dedicated State Election microsite indicating a high level of engagement.

In terms of issues, the public has resonated strongly with four of the five issues that the paid campaign has focussed on. (Connected and Inclusive Communities - with Sport & Recreation achieving the highest interest, Safer Roads, Climate Resilience and Disaster Ready.) Low Carbon has received the least engagement across the social and programmatic campaign and are the least searched key words in Google.

2.4m of the total 4.6m impressions have been served through carousels, stories and polls on social media. Carousels displaying the 'under stress' and swipe right to see 'at its best' messaging has the highest engagement with over 56,000 people commenting and 'liking' posts.

Polls running on Safer Roads and Urban Canopy have the highest Click Through Rate (CTR). In terms of engagement by issue, Climate Resilience and Safer Roads have gained the most interaction in terms of comments, but when voting for the State to take action via the polls, 'Better sports facilities' has gained the highest votes from the public with 98% of respondents supportive, followed by 'More support for Volunteer fireies' with a supporter rate of 92%.

WALGA has also implemented a broad political engagement strategy in recent months, with meetings held with key Ministers, candidates, and the Opposition parties.

WALGA's advocacy has been successful in securing commitments that align with a number of the policy priorities identified in the *West at its Best* document. At the time of writing this report (3 February) the key commitments to WALGA's agenda include:

#### *Labor*

- Expansion of the regional road safety program to local roads (\$125 million).
- 23 new signalised crossings to replace warden-controlled children's crossings (\$17.7 million). Ten of these align with WALGA's list of priority crossings.
- Funding for six new Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) positions (\$3.5 million).
- Dedicated State Bushfire Mitigation Branch to undertake mitigation works on unallocated crown land and unmanaged reserves. Support Local Government to manage the risk on road verges and provide support during major incidents.
- Commitment to double Perth's tree canopy cover to 30% by 2040, new urban canopy growth program (\$10 million) and 'treebates' to encourage Western Australians to plant native trees.
- Regional housing package, including new and refurbished social housing, additional GROH homes and stamp duty relief for first homebuyers (\$145 million).
- Expansion of the PATS rebate by more than 50% and expansion to include dental services and allied health (\$34 million).
- Range of infrastructure projects to improve community sport and recreation facilities across the state (\$186 million), including \$30 million additional funding towards changing room upgrades, equipment and events to encourage more female sport participation.
- In the Mid-Year Financial Projections Statement that was released in mid-December 2024, the State Government launched Creative WA: A 10 year vision to grow and sustain our creative ecosystem. \$45 million over three years will be allocated to support upgrades for arts and cultural infrastructure across the State.

#### *Nationals*

- Emergency management initiatives including a \$45.5 million one-off payment to fill the backlog of Local Government Grant Scheme capital grant requests with an additional \$2.8 million increase per year over four years; and \$20 million over four years to fund the expansion of the Community Emergency Service Manager (CESM) Program.
- Regional headworks fund (\$1 billion).
- Safer local roads program, applying targeted treatments to 8,200km of local roads (\$276 million).
- Boost to Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) and expansion to allied health and dental services (\$100 million).

- Implement a comprehensive State Planning Policy for renewable energy, mandate community impact assessment and community benefit funds with a baseline contribution of 1.5%.
- Increase the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund to \$40 million per annum and develop 10 year regional sporting plans.

*Liberal*

- Housing infrastructure investment fund to support enabling infrastructure such as sewerage, roads and water (\$500 million).
- Create a new Regional Housing Infrastructure Program, to support headworks in regional areas and unlock housing (\$100 million).
- Regional health initiatives including increasing PATS fuel and accommodation allowances, more career paramedics in regional WA, and patient transport in the Wheatbelt (\$87 million).

**COMMENT**

The State Election is an important opportunity for Local Governments to secure support from major parties for their priorities.

It is pleasing that there have been a number of commitments to important priorities for Local Governments.

With several weeks left in the campaign, WALGA will continue to advocate strongly for the remaining priority initiatives.

## 10.3 LARGE SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY UPDATE

*By Lisa Harwood, Principal Policy Advisor Economic Development and Taysha Sullivan, Acting Manager Media and Communications*

### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council note the update on WALGA's renewable energy policy and advocacy activities.**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- Western Australia's energy industry is transforming to achieve the goal of net zero emissions by 2050.
- Western Australia does not have a plan or framework that provides a consistent approach to how proponents of major energy projects consult with local communities and how they can share in the benefits.
- State Council adopted a suite of renewable energy related advocacy positions in September 2024.
- WALGA has been progressing a number of initiatives to support Local Governments since State Council endorsed three energy transition advocacy positions last year.
- In correspondence to WALGA, the Minister for Energy; Environment; Climate Action has acknowledged Local Governments' concerns and reinforced the role of Powering WA to engage with the sector to better understand the opportunities and challenges faced by their communities.

### **ATTACHMENT**

- [Minister Whitby - Energy Transition Advocacy Letter](#)

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This item relates to the following [WALGA advocacy positions](#):

- 6.16 Energy Transition Engagement and Community Benefit Framework
- 6.17 Renewable Energy Facilities
- 6.18 Priority Agriculture

### **BACKGROUND**

The 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting resolved *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*. Following on from this discussion, further conversations across WALGA Member Councils have led to the consideration of how local communities can be involved in, and benefit from, renewable energy projects.

After consultation with Members, discussions with State Governments and other jurisdictions, WALGA developed three advocacy policy positions related to the renewable energy transition. These were endorsed by all WALGA Zones and State Council at its September 2024 State Council Meeting. These positions form the basis of WALGA's advocacy on this topic and will be used to inform discussions with Government and advocate on behalf of our Members.

## COMMENT

WALGA has progressed policy work to support Members with the renewable energy transition including:

- **Energy Transition Survey:** In September 2024, WALGA conducted a survey to capture data on Local Government sentiment on the energy transition. The survey was targeted towards Local Government CEOs.
- **WALGA Research Paper:** The paper outlines how other State Governments are responding to renewable energy projects and highlights relevant energy strategies and stakeholders in State and Federal Government.
- **Planning resource:** "Empowering Local Governments - Planning for Renewable Energy" provides an overview of the State and Local planning frameworks and tools available to Local Governments for managing renewable energy facility development. It also outlines the three development assessment pathways for renewable energy proponents.
- **Teams Group for Local Government Leaders:** A Teams Group was established for CEOs and Elected Members to facilitate continued collaboration and knowledge sharing between Local Governments. Both the research paper and planning resource have been shared in the group.
- **Large Scale Renewable Energy Forum:** The Forum brought together State Government, industry and Local Government to discuss the opportunities and challenges of large-scale renewable energy projects, and what support Local Governments need when it comes to engaging with proponents.

WALGA's advocacy is ongoing and includes a range of stakeholder engagement and public relations activities. These include:

- **Political and Government engagement**, including:
  - Meetings with relevant Ministers including the Premier, Minister for Planning, Minister for Energy, Minister for Local Government and the Leader of the Opposition.
  - Meetings with Ministerial Senior Policy Advisors.
  - WALGA President Cr Karen Chappel AM JP wrote to all relevant Ministers to provide them with WALGA's renewable energy advocacy positions
  - Renewable energy has been a key discussion item for WALGA's election advocacy, including in meetings with candidates.
  - WALGA has received correspondence from Minister for Energy; Environment; Climate Action (attached) acknowledging the concerns of many Local Governments and reinforcing the ongoing role for Powering WA to engage with the sector to better understand the opportunities and challenges faced by their communities.
  - Continued discussions with key government agencies including PoweringWA, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation, Western Power and Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.
- **Engagement with industry and other stakeholders** including ALGA, Clean Energy Council, Smart Energy Council, Curtin University, Conservation Council of WA and Re-Alliance.
- **Media** commentary centred on WALGA's renewable energy advocacy positions and related State Election Priorities:
  - An article mentioning WALGA's 2025 State Election Priority by The West Australian (*WALGA conference: Former WA Nationals leader Brendan Grylls warns WA is losing clean energy race*) on 9 October 2024 as a result of the 2024 WALGA Local Government Convention's 'State of Play' panel.

- An article published in The Sunday Times on 5 January ([Regions want help in turbine tensions](#)), through online newspapers affiliated with Sunday Times/The West, and on ABC TV, in line with WALGA's State Election Priorities.
- An 'Op-ed' piece by WALGA President Karen Chappel ([Locals must have input in renewable plans and the answer is blowing in the Wind](#)) that appeared alongside the Sunday Times article, espousing that WALGA and Local Governments want to see a framework produced by the State Government to assist industry proponents and Local Governments entering renewables discussions.
- An article in The West Australian, and its affiliated regional newspapers, on 7 January (Blowing up in Mid West) which featured further comments from the WALGA President, including the pull quote "*The State Government needs to step up and set the framework to ensure that these projects leave a lasting legacy that is positive.*"
- The Nationals WA have recently announced that if elected, they will implement a comprehensive State Planning Policy for renewable energy projects and ensure that regional communities are consulted, considered, and benefit from renewable developments proposed across Western Australia. WALGA put out a [Media Statement](#) in response to this announcement.
- **Promotion** through WALGA communication channels.
  - WALGA's Large Scale Renewable Energy Projects Forum was covered both on the day and post-event via [WALGA's social media channels](#).
  - The President's Op-ed were shared and supported through [WALGA's social media](#), website and LG Direct channels.

Key next steps for WALGA include:

- **Community Benefits and Engagement Guide:** WALGA is engaging a consultant to prepare a Community Benefits and Engagement Guide to assist Local Governments when working with proponents on large scale renewable energy projects. Interested Local Governments will have the chance to provide input into the Guide over the coming months. Key industry and government stakeholders will also be engaged throughout the process.
- **Political and Government engagement:** Discussions with relevant State Government agencies will continue in the lead up to, and after, the State election. Further meetings with relevant Ministers will be sought post State Government election.
- **Research on Local Government Rating:** WALGA is conducting research relating to Local Government rating and payment in lieu of rates in respect to renewable energy projects. This work will include a review of other States and Territories.

## 10.4 2024 COASTWA LOCAL GOVERNMENT SURVEY

*By Lucy Sheehy, CoastWA Local Government Facilitator*

### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council note the update on the 2024 CoastWA Local Government Survey.**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- An online survey of coastal and estuarine Local Governments was undertaken in October 2024.
- The purpose of the survey was to inform input into the development of CoastWA Phase 2 and the review of *State Planning Policy 2.6: Coastal* planning and guide the activities and priorities of the CoastWA Local Government Facilitator for the next two years.
- The survey was sent via email to all 52 coastal and estuarine Local Governments.
- Survey results indicated that Local Governments:
  - are increasingly having to act and respond to coastal hazards.
  - are heavily reliant on grant funding to implement coastal adaptation projects.
  - foresee needing to increase their spending on coastal adaptation over the next five years.
  - see the greatest barrier to implementation is a lack of budget and this has increased since the 2021 CoastWA Survey.
  - had largely not commenced planning for managed retreat (if identified in their CHRMAP) and that appropriate funding, legislative support and resourcing would be required to give them the certainty to do so.
  - saw value in the State Government implementing projects such as a state-wide community education campaign, coastal data collection and state-wide coastal hazard mapping.

### **ATTACHMENT**

- [2024 CoastWA Local Government Survey – Preliminary Outcomes Report](#)

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The outcomes of this survey support WALGA [advocacy policy position 6.8 Coastal Planning](#), which calls for:

1. *Equitable legislative, regulatory and policy changes that preserve public coastal access for current and future generations.*
2. *The provision of sustainable and adequate long-term funding for Local Governments to manage the impacts of coastal erosion and inundation.*

### **BACKGROUND**

CoastWA is the State Government's strategic response to coastal hazards, providing grant funding for Local Government coastal adaptation projects and technical support and expertise through the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and Department of Transport. CoastWA also funds a CoastWA Local Government Facilitator based at WALGA to support coastal and estuarine Local Governments.

An online survey of coastal and estuarine Local Governments was undertaken in October 2024. The objectives of the survey were to:

- Inform input into the development of CoastWA Phase 2. The current CoastWA program ends in 2025-26 and planning has commenced for the next iteration of CoastWA.
- Inform input into the review of State Planning Policy 2.6: Coastal planning.
- Guide the activities and priorities of the CoastWA Local Government Facilitator for the next two years.
- Enable comparison to the 2021 CoastWA Survey.

The survey consisted of five sections.

1. Introduction
2. Coastal management and adaptation in your Local Government
3. Coastal hazard risk management and adaptation planning
4. State Planning Policy 2.6
5. CoastWA program

The Survey was sent via email to all 52 coastal and estuarine Local Governments. Responses were received from 28 Local Governments and one regional partnership representing a 54% response rate.

#### **COMMENT**

The *2024 CoastWA Survey Outcomes Report* demonstrates that coastal hazards are an increasingly important issue for coastal and estuarine Local Governments. Adapting to coastal hazards is challenging and requires long term planning, engagement with communities and significant cost. Increased funding, support and resourcing from State Government is needed to help Local Governments adapt to coastal hazards and ensure a sustainable and resilient coastline for all.

Through its involvement in the development of CoastWA Phase 2, WALGA will strongly advocate on behalf of coastal and estuarine Local Governments. In particular, for increased funding and resourcing for Local Government and for State Government to take a greater leadership role in planning for managed retreat.

Through our participation in the Intergovernmental Coastal Hazards Working Group (along with ALGA) we will continue to advocate to the Federal Government to take on a greater leadership role and to support all levels of government to adapt to coastal hazards.

The results of the survey will also be used to inform a sector submission into the review of *State Planning Policy 2.6: Coastal planning* when advertised.



## 10.5 POLYPHAGOUS SHOT-HOLE BORER UPDATE

*By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager Environment and Waste*

### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council note the update on Polyphagous shot-hole borer response and WALGA advocacy.**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- In March 2024, State Council considered the Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) biosecurity response as an emerging issue, noting:
  - The significant threat PSHB presents to growth and retention of urban forests.
  - WALGA and Local Government engagement in the PSHB response.
  - The importance of shared surveillance by government, industry and community to assist with eradication efforts.
  - The need for funding to replace trees lost due to PSHB and ameliorate the long-term urban canopy impact.
- Over the past year, WALGA and Local Governments have escalated PSHB advocacy and political engagement, amid concerns that insufficient resources and State Government process issues will fail to eradicate the borer.
- Advocacy priorities have included:
  - Recognition of the impact of PSHB on the urban canopy, and funding for replacement of trees lost to PSHB infestation.
  - Increased resourcing of the eradication response, including funding for Local Government in recognition of the sector's significant (>\$2 million) investment towards response operations to date.
  - A more efficient and agile response.
  - Research on innovative control strategies, biology and behaviour in WA's environment, and new approaches to improve surveillance efficiency.
- Advocacy wins have included:
  - The State Government's investment of \$7.2 million in the [WA Tree Recovery Program for PSHB](#).
  - WA Agricultural Research Collaboration (WAARC) delivery of \$2 million for [PSHB Research in late 2024](#).
- Despite some progress over the past year, further action is needed. WALGA is advocating for:
  - More funding and resources to support the PSHB response, including for Local Government.
  - Local Government to be represented on the national body overseeing the development of the new national PSHB Emergency Plant Pest Response Plan, which will supersede the existing plan by June 2025.
  - Research and development to be embedded and funded as part of the PSHB Response Plan.
  - Removal of restrictions on access to detailed data on the location of infested premises and positive trap detections to enable Local Governments to better target surveillance efforts and assist with early detection.
  - An intensified public awareness campaign.

- WALGA is currently preparing a submission to the National Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests on key priorities for inclusion in the new PSHB Response Plan.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This item is relevant to the [4.4 Post Border Biosecurity](#), [4.5 Urban Forest](#) and [4.7 PSHB Advocacy Positions](#).

## **BACKGROUND**

PSHB was first detected in East Fremantle in September 2021. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is leading the national response to PSHB, with costs shared by the Australian and state and territory governments under the National Emergency Plant Pest Response Arrangement. \$41.29 million has been allocated for the response, which runs until June 2025.

The PSHB Quarantine Area (QA) covers all Local Governments in the Perth metropolitan area. The QA is divided into Zone A, comprising inner Perth metropolitan areas that have higher levels of infestation and Zone B, outer metropolitan suburbs that have fewer or no infested trees. Zone B is intended to act as a 'buffer zone' between areas of higher infestations and the remainder of the State. Quarantine restrictions are in place to stop the movement of wood and plant material from Zone A into Zone B, and from Zone A and B to outside the QA.

As of the end of January 2025, DPIRD has:

- conducted 277,901 visits and created 115,966 unique premises
- taken 176,461 trap samples
- removed 4,249 trees
- undertaken 1,084 pruning treatments:
  - *Robinia pseudoacacia* (Robinia, black locust, mop top robinia), being so abundant in Perth, is the most heavily affected species, with 1,609 trees treated
  - 208 host tree species are affected by PSHB in WA
  - 105 host tree species have been identified as reproductive (PSHB is able to complete its full lifecycle in these hosts).

DPIRD is also:

- Updating the [WA PSHB Host list](#), including a susceptibility to PSHB attack rating system.
- Delivering in-house PSHB training for Local Government staff, with over 50 training sessions delivered for over 30 Local Governments.
- Running webinars for regional Local Governments and Emergency Management Committees to assist with awareness and preparedness.
- Running community information sessions in collaboration with Local Governments.
- Holding monthly meetings between DPIRD case managers and Local Government staff to discuss surveillance activities and tree management, including a collaborative approach on the development of Tree Management Plans for Infested Premises.
- Providing monthly PSHB 'heat maps' to Local Governments (total of 18) that have signed a Confidentiality Deed Poll.
- Undertaking a range of public communication activities, including social media, public signage and posters (including provision to Local Government), deploying electronic traffic signs on major roads exiting the Quarantine Area and a publishing a monthly PSHB eNewsletter (first edition released October 2024, subscribe [here](#)).

- Leading the development of a new National PSHB Response Plan, for the consideration of the National Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests.

#### **COMMENT**

Over the past year WALGA and Local Governments have undertaken significant PSHB advocacy and actions, including:

- Expending more than \$2 million on PSHB surveillance, tree pruning, removal, and tailored communications to local communities.
- Raising the profile of this issue, garnering significant media interest.
- Ongoing political and departmental engagement, including meetings with the Premier and Minister for Agriculture and Food, Forestry and Small Business; Environment; the DPIRD Director General and senior staff.
- Successful advocacy, leading to the Government's announcement of a \$7.2M [WA Tree Recovery Program](#) for PSHB, which will be available to Local Government and the community this autumn. WALGA provided input into the design of the funding packaging, based on experience with the 2024/25 Urban Greening Grant Program.
- \$2M funding has been allocated to the WA Agricultural Research Collaborative to provide for research into PSHB eradication. WALGA and a representative from the sector provided input into the scoping of the research priorities. WALGA is also the nominated contact for Local Governments wishing to partner on proposed research projects.

Despite some progress over the past year, further action is needed. WALGA is advocating for:

- More funding and resources to support the PSHB response, including for Local Government.
- Local Government representation on the national body overseeing the development of the new national PSHB Emergency Plant Pest Response Plan, which will supersede the existing plan by June 2025.
- Research and development to be embedded and funded as part of the PSHB Response Plan.
- Greater transparency, including the removal of restrictions on access to detailed data on the location of infested premises and positive trap detections to enable Local Governments to better target surveillance efforts and assist with early detection and access to the National Response Plan for PSHB.
- An intensified public awareness campaign.

## 10.6 DECEMBER 2024 ECONOMIC BRIEFING

*By Daniel Thomson, Manager Economics*

### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council note the December 2024 Economic Briefing.**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- The latest WALGA Quarterly Economic Briefing was released in December 2024.
- The Australian economy grew just 0.8% in the year to September. Western Australia's economy is the standout performer nationally, with State Final Demand increasing 2.5% and employment up 4.5% in the last 12 months.
- The WA Treasury released the 2024–25 Government Mid-year Financial Projections Statement on 23 December 2024.
- Local Government costs increased 3.3% over the last 12 months, with employee costs a key driver.
- The next Economic Briefing will be released in March 2025.

### **ATTACHMENT**

- [Economic Briefing](#)

### **BACKGROUND**

The latest WALGA Quarterly Economic Briefing was released in December 2024.

The Australian economy grew just 0.8% in the last 12 months, propped up by public sector spending and population growth. The WA domestic economy continues to outperform the nation with State Final Demand increasing 2.5% and employment up 4.5% in the last 12 months. The RBA kept interest rates on hold in December as inflation continues to fall slowly but remains above the target band. Inflation in WA is higher than the national average with increasing housing costs a key concern.

The labour market in WA continues to be tight with low unemployment and high workforce participation. Wages growth continues but at a slower rate with public sector wages growing at a slower pace than the private sector

Population growth is slowing across the country but remains high. WA's population growth is higher still. WA housing completions and building approvals are increasing but remain below the level required to meet demand and national housing targets.

Local Government costs increased by 3.3% over the last 12 months. Employee costs are a key driver of price increases. Construction costs have increased by approximately 20% over the last three years. The rate of price rises has slowed on average across the State as global supply chain constraints have eased and post-pandemic stimulus works its way through the system. The strong infrastructure and construction pipeline could lead to increased construction costs in the short term.

## COMMENT

The WA Treasury released the 2024–25 Government Mid-year Financial Projections Statement on 23 December 2024. The State Government highlighted the \$3.1 billion surplus in 2023-24, up from May's estimate of \$2.6 billion, with surpluses forecast for the next three years. Higher than expected income from taxes and royalties drove this increased surplus. Taxation income benefited from higher prices, leading to an additional \$1.4 billion in duty collections and higher than expected car sales boosting motor vehicle taxes by \$895 million. Income from royalties was up \$1.3 billion off the back of iron ore (+\$1.7 billion) and gold (+\$608 million) which more than offset falls in lithium (-\$673 million) and nickel (-\$240 million).

While some additional income was banked to increase the surplus, expenditure was also up, with increased spending on services to support the increased population, in particular in health, housing, communities, justice and education. The major new spending announcement in the Mid-year Review was the \$400 million Housing Enabling Infrastructure Fund, which seeks to increase housing supply by funding water and power infrastructure.

WA Treasury expects the domestic economy to continue its strong run of growth, with State Final Demand forecast to increase by 3.5% in 2024-25 and 3.25% in each of the next two years. The public sector is a major contributor to this growth with Government consumption forecast to increase 5.5% in 2024-25 driven by the increase in services delivery and cost of living support. Government investment is expected to increase 7.0% in 2024-25, however the public sector is forecast to contribute less to economic growth in the out years as population growth slows and the State's record infrastructure spending slows.

As growth in the public sector eases, it is the private sector that is forecast to drive economic growth. Dwelling investment is forecast to jump 11.25% in 2024-25 as the residential construction industry ramps up and more houses are built. Household consumption in WA has held up better than in other states due to the strong economy and population growth. Investment from business is expected to grow just 1.0% in 2024-25 after a jump of 12.7% in 2023-24. This is expected to increase to 3.25% in 2025-26 due to the strong pipeline of projects in the mining, renewables, and infrastructure sectors.

### WA Treasury Economic Forecasts

Mid-Year 2024-25	Review	2022-23 % Actual	2023-24 % Actual	2024-25 % Forecast	2025-26 % Forecast	2026-27 % Forecast
Gross State Product		3.5	0.5	2.25	2.5	2.5
Household Consumption		3.5	3.1	2.5	3.0	3.0
Business Investment		4.5	12.7	1.0	3.25	5.5
Dwelling Investment		-2.7	4.1	11.25	9.75	5.5
Goods Exports		4.7	-3.7	0.5	1.5	0.5
Goods Imports		7.8	9.1	0.75	1.75	2.75
Employment Growth		3.1	3.8	2.5	1.75	1.5
Unemployment Rate		3.6	3.7	4.0	4.25	4.5
Wage Price Index		4.2	4.2	3.75	3.5	3.0
Population		3.2	2.8	1.9	1.8	1.8

## 10.7 FLYING MINUTE SUBMISSION ON THE PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION INQUIRY – OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

*By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste*

### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council note the Submission on the Productivity Commission Inquiry – Opportunities in the Circular Economy, as endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute.**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- The Productivity Commission is inquiring into Australia's opportunities for a circular economy to improve materials productivity and efficiency in ways that benefit the economy and the environment.
- The Inquiry Terms of Reference were released on 23 August 2024 and a Call for Submissions Paper was released on 16 September 2024. The consultation closed on 1 November. WALGA requested, and received, an extension to 15 November 2024.
- WALGA's Submission identifies WA circular economy success stories, key circular economy opportunities, barriers for Local Government in Western Australia and roles for Government.
- The transition to a circular economy has the potential to reduce cost of living pressures, maximise the use of resources and reduce a range of environmental impacts associated with the manufacture, distribution and post-consumption management of products.
- For these benefits to be realised, action is needed from all levels of Government to change legislation and policies where required, put in place relevant incentives and lead by example.
- The draft Submission was endorsed by MWAC on 23 October 2024 and by State Council via Flying Minute on 13 November 2024. It was provided to the Productivity Commission on 15 November 2024.

### **ATTACHMENT**

- [Flying Minute Submission on the Productivity Commission Inquiry.](#)

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

WALGA's Submission aligns with [WALGA Advocacy Positions](#):

- 7.1 Waste Management Legislation
- 7.8 Waste Management Education
- 7.10 Household Hazardous Waste
- 7.12 Landfill Ban
- 7.13 Recovered Materials Framework
- 7.15 Product Stewardship

### **BACKGROUND**

In October 2022, Australia's Environment Ministers committed to accelerate the transition to a circular economy by 2030. As part of this work, the Productivity Commission is undertaking an inquiry into circular economy and has released a Call for Submissions Paper. This is the first stage of the Commission's work and further opportunities to comment will be available in February 2025 (with submissions due April 2025).

The Productivity Commission defines a circular economy as "an economic strategy that maintains the value of materials for as long as possible and ensures materials are used efficiently across all phases of their life cycle".

The Productivity Commission states:

*International studies suggest that a more circular economy supports higher economic growth and productivity, including by increasing materials productivity (how much output is produced per unit of raw input). Australia currently has the fourth lowest rate of materials productivity in the OECD. We generate US\$1.20 of economic output for every kg of materials consumed, which is under half the OECD benchmark of US\$2.50. However, there is currently limited analysis of these matters, including the relative importance of these opportunities and how they should be measured and realised.*

This Inquiry follows the Commission's earlier Inquiry into the [Right to Repair](#), on which WALGA made several [Submissions](#). Repair is one strategy to assist in developing a more circular economy.

MWAC endorsed the draft Submission to the Circular Economy Inquiry at its meeting on 23 October 2024.

## **COMMENT**

The Productivity Commission's Paper identifies a range of potential benefits from a circular economy in Australia, including improving economic, environmental and social outcomes. WALGA's Submission was informed by Local Government feedback and has the following key focus areas:

- The important role of procurement as a way of embedding a more circular approach.
- Quality assurance and market development for recovered materials, to ensure end users have high confidence in the quality and safety of products.
- Economic shifts that have occurred and facilitate a more circular economy approach, for example, the sharing economy.
- Designing products for circularity and repair, to ensure all products entering the market are designed to maintain the highest value as long as possible.
- Regionally focused systems that facilitate waste being received and processed close to the source, in order to create and develop local industry and employment opportunities.
- Specific programs and incentives to shift consumer behaviours, alongside a mandated product stewardship framework which ensures all products manufactured, distributed and sold are more easily reused, repaired, recovered or recycled.
- To effectively transition toward a circular economy, Government must take a leading role in embedding circular practices across a range of industries.

The Submission was endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute on 13 November 2024 and provided to the Productivity Commission on 15 November 2024.

## 11 ORGANISATION REPORTS

### 11.1 KEY ACTIVITY REPORTS

#### 11.1.1 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, ADVOCACY PORTFOLIO

*By Rachel Horton, Executive Manager Advocacy*

##### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council note the Key Activity Report from the Advocacy Portfolio to the March 2025 State Council meeting.**

*The Advocacy Portfolio comprises the following work units:*

- *Marketing*
- *Communications*
- *Media*
- *Events*

The following outlines the activities of the Advocacy Portfolio since the December 2024 State Council meeting.

##### **1. ADVOCACY**

WALGA's combined State Election Campaign through paid and earned media and political engagements has been successful in securing commitments for a number of important initiatives aligned with WALGA's advocacy in The West at its Best policy platform.

Paid media has resulted in 4.6m impressions served across social, digital, out of home and outdoor media across WA.

The dedicated election campaign microsite has received 37,210 visits over the reporting period, driven from paid advertising and direct visits.

In terms of issues, the public has resonated strongly with four of the five issues that the paid campaign has focussed on (Connected and Inclusive Communities - with Sport & Recreation achieving the highest interest, Safer Roads, Climate Resilience and Disaster Ready). Low Carbon has received the least engagement across the social and programmatic campaign and are the least searched key words in Google.

WALGA's 2025 Federal Election Priorities has been developed and distributed to Members of Parliament, Elected Members and other key stakeholders.

Please see [item 10.2](#) for more detail on the State Election Campaign and commitments made by major parties in line with WALGA's advocacy.



## **2. MARKETING**

### **Brand**

The internal graphic design resource is providing enormous value enhancing the quality of materials, increasing the speed of production and driving brand consistency. Over 50 documents and reports have been published in the reporting period including the Federal Election Priorities document, Road Safety reports and refreshed Western Councillor magazine.

All WALGA e-newsletters have been re-branded to be consistent with the main WALGA corporate news (the LG Direct), enhancing our brand narrative around our key pillars of Influence, Support and Expertise plus providing cross promotion opportunities between newsletters.

### **Website**

The WALGA website has performed well over the reporting period. Comparing quarterly statistics there has been a 13% increase in active users and a 41% increase in direct traffic. As the only variable for direct traffic, this is likely due to the Election Campaign driving interest in the WALGA website.

Another highlight is the number of WALGA newsletter subscriptions. There was a 26% increase from 673 to 846 over the last quarter.

## **3. COMMUNICATIONS**

Multiple internal and external communications were published throughout the reporting period including:

- Twelve LG Direct weekly newsletters distributed to over 2,000 Elected Members and senior staff
- The November 2024 edition of the Western Councillor Magazine
- Q4 Tailored Quarterly Report compiled and distributed to all Members
- WALGA's 2025 Federal Election Priorities.

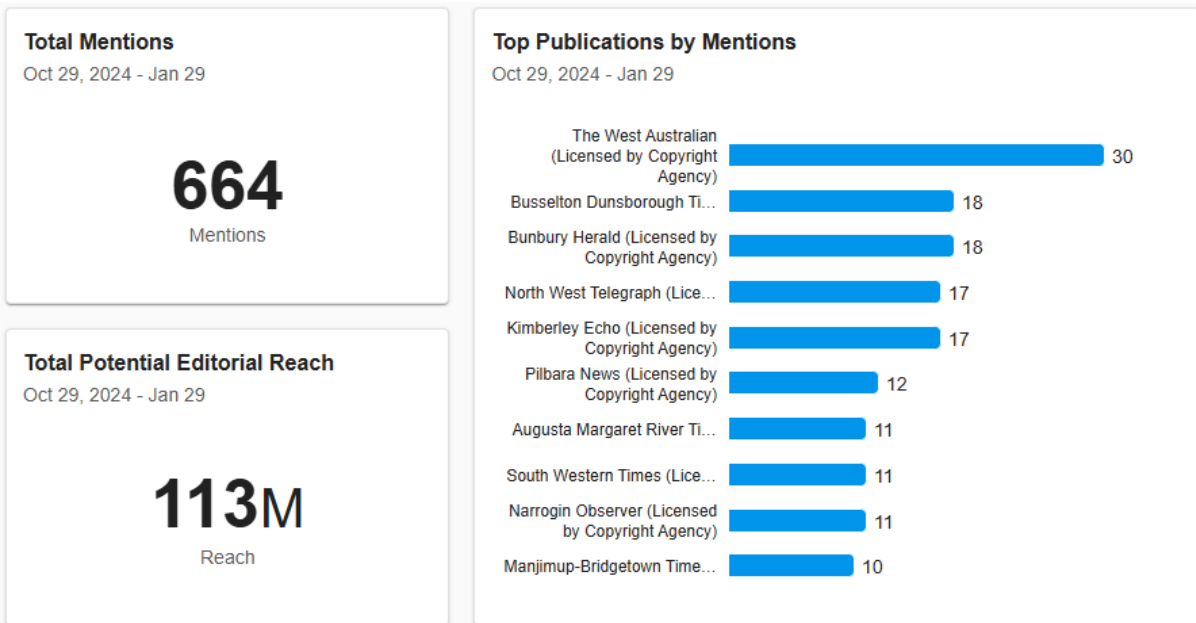
### **EARNED MEDIA**

WALGA has generated significant media activity throughout the reporting period with 664 mentions of WALGA and President Karen Chappel. This equates to seven mentions a day.

One of the online articles with the highest reach (5.6m) was WALGA's response to Premier Roger Cook's negative comments on the Local Government sector including the headline comment from the WALGA President, "Unbecoming of the Premier."

Items that gained publicity in response to WALGA press releases include Renewable Energy, the Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer, plus Showcase in Pixels and Local Government Elections.

The media has sought comment from WALGA on sector issues over 30 times including on issues such as Population Growth, First Past the Post Voting, Coastal Management and the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer.



### Media Releases & Opinion piece

- [Local heroes showcased through community art](#) – 29 November 2024
- [WALGA welcomes the Nationals commitment to Emergency Services funding](#) – 13 December 2024
- [Karen Chappel: Local must have input in renewable plans and the answer is blowing in the Wind](#) (WALGA Renewable Op-ed) - 5 January
- [WALGA welcomes Nationals' renewable energy announcement](#) – 14 January
- [Labor responds to WALGA's call to rebuild our urban forest](#) – 15 January
- [WALGA commends Labor's commitment to women's sport and urges long-term sporting investment](#) – 17 January 2025
- [WALGA welcomes Labor funding commitment to improve regional road safety](#) – 24 January
- [WALGAs response to Nationals CSRFF announcement](#) – 30 January
- [WALGA's advocacy reflected in new elected member superannuation provisions](#) – 31 January

### Social Media:

200 social media posts were placed in the reporting period across LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram. (This is separate to paid campaign posts.) A decrease was seen in engagement across all channels so this will be monitored as it could indicate too many posts are being placed. Over 2,000 engagements were achieved on LinkedIn which is encouraging as the key professional platform, and despite lower engagement, brand awareness has benefited from serving 150,000+ impressions across the three major platforms.

## LinkedIn:

### Top posts



Yesterday, WALGA hosted Local Government Minister Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Housing and Planning Minister Hon John Carey MLA and Urban Development Institute of Australia WA CEO Tanya Steinbeck as they joined CEO Nick

**1,313** clicks



On Wednesday 18 December, WALGA hosted our end-of-year 'WALGA Wrap' event at Perth City Farm. The event provided an opportunity to celebrate a great year of delivering better outcomes for WA Local Governments and

**1,038** clicks



"Thanks to Shane, we're going to build a great \$600,000 fire shed for our town brigade..." Shane Harris, a Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) who serves the Shires of Cranbrook, Gnowangerup, and

**589** clicks

- 71 posts
- 2,093 post reactions (8% increase)
- 118,177 post impressions (5% increase)
- 71% post engagement rate (18% decrease)

## Facebook:

- 56 Posts
- 18,922 post reach (20% decrease)
- 20,116 post impressions (23% decrease)
- 5.89% post engagement rate (4% decrease)

## Instagram:

- 11,224 post reach (16% decrease)
- 11,752 post impressions (13% decrease)
- 4.55% post engagement rate (8% increase)

## PAID MEDIA

The 2025 State Election campaign is gaining strong engagement through targeted advertisement placements and messaging across social media, digital, out of home and outdoor media, generating a combined reach of 4.6 million.

## Social Media

2.4m of the total 4.6m impressions have been served through carousels, stories and polls on social media. Carousels displaying the 'under stress' and swipe right to see 'at its best' messaging has the highest engagement with people commenting and 'liking' posts (56,000+).

Polls running on Safer roads and Urban Canopy have the highest Click Through Rate (CTR). In terms of engagement by issue, Climate Resilience and Safer Roads have gained the most interaction in terms of comments, but when voting for action from the State via the polls, 'Better sports facilities' has gained the highest votes from the public with 98% of respondents supportive, followed by 'More support for Volunteer fireies' with a supporter rate of 92%.

## Programmatic Display Advertising

The custom segments responding to display advertising are those classified as 'Green Living', 'Family Focussed' and 'interested in Local/Political news'. That said, all segments are outperforming benchmarks with a CTR of 0.7 compared to an average of 0.06 for

standard display advertising. (Display click through rates are typically much lower as the user isn't actively seeking the product/advert, it is being displayed in a passive manner.) The strongest results have been generated from the Safer Roads keywords at 0.9% CTR and Climate Resilience with a 0.74% CTR.

### **Google Search Engine Marketing**

In terms of words actively searched in Google, the strongest results have been policy-searches related to the election, for example 'Regional Sporting Election' which achieved a CTR of 14.9% (benchmark 3%). The highest engagement in Google is from the 25-34 year old age group. From a geographic perspective, the highest volume of keyword searches is being generated in Belmont, Vincent, Victoria Park and Stirling.

### **Out Of Home Media (OOH)**

Approximately 1.2m impressions have been served across OOH media (predominantly in the Perth Metropolitan area), including billboards in high traffic areas (e.g. Leach Highway). Other OOH placements include shopping centres, bus shelters and health care centres.

### **Campaign Microsite**

There has been a relatively similar number of page visits to three of the issues sponsored through the paid campaign, with Disaster Ready, Climate Resilience and Safer Communities generating an average of 33% of traffic each. 'Connected and Inclusive' has seen the least microsite page visits at 1% of traffic. However, microsite page visits are not reflective of engagement with topics across the board, with issues under the 'Connected and Inclusive' category achieving significant engagement through polls and Google search engine marketing.

## **4. EVENTS**

### **WALGA Wrap**

The WALGA Wrap end of year function held at Perth City Farm on 18 December, provided an opportunity to highlight the successes of 2024 and thank the 150 stakeholders and suppliers in attendance for their partnership throughout the year.

A themed menu showcased local produce from around Western Australia, with dishes dedicated to The Goldfields, The Coral Coast, The Wheatbelt and The South West together with music from WAAPA Alumni Evan Ayers.

### **Urban Forest Conference**

The 2025 Urban Forest Conference is sold out with 365 main registrations and 57 registrations for field tours.

The event will be hosted at the Boola Katitjin building at Murdoch University, creating a unique indoor/outdoor presentation for the main sessions and Sundowner. New initiatives this year include the 'Village Green' where key suppliers and stakeholders can exhibit in the greening space, plus a dedicated Field Tour program held the day prior to the main conference.

Planning is now also underway for the 2025 Aboriginal Engagement Forum on 10 April and the 2025 Local Government Awards.

## 11.1.2 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO

*By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure*

### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council note the Key Activity Report from the Infrastructure Portfolio for March 2025.**

*The Infrastructure Portfolio comprises the following work units:*

- *Roads*
- *Funding*
- *Urban and Regional Transport*
- *Utilities*
- *Road Safety*

The following outlines the activities of the Infrastructure Portfolio since the last State Council meeting.

### **1. ROADS**

#### **Local Government Transport and Roads Research and Innovation Program**

Guidelines for the use of crumbed rubber modified asphalts, sprayed seals, reclaimed asphalt pavement and a catalogue of standard pavement profiles are scheduled for publication in the next quarter. Work has commenced on an investigation into available technologies for best practice road condition assessments and data collection and the development of a road safety rating tool for intersections.

#### **Condition Assessment of Roads of Regional Significance**

The condition assessment survey of significant roads in the Pilbara and Gascoyne regions is nearing completion. The condition survey work for the Kimberley region will commence in March/April 2025, following the wet season in the Kimberley region.

#### **Road Rail Interface Agreements**

Rail Interface Agreements are a requirement under the *Rail Safety National Law (WA) Act 2015*. Each metropolitan Local Government with road/rail crossings with PTA electrified network was recently sent an Interface Agreement for review and execution. All nine Local Governments have now signed this updated agreement. For road/rail interfaces on the Arc Infrastructure network, a model *pro forma* agreement between Local Governments and Arc Infrastructure is nearing the end of negotiations and should be available for Local Government review and action soon. WALGA will begin a process to liaise with each relevant affected Local Government to provide advice around the new agreement, once the *pro forma* agreement has been finalised.

#### **Update of User Guides for calculating the cost of road wear for defined freight tasks**

Due to recent escalation in road construction costs, WALGA has initiated an update of the unit rates that are used to underpin the methodologies in the User Guides for calculating the cost of road wear for defined freight tasks on sealed and unsealed roads. NTRO have been appointed to update the guides and to compile an online calculator and the project is scheduled for completion in February.

## **Operational Boundaries and Asset Responsibilities in Rural Regions**

Main Roads have released a draft policy document that defines the operational and maintenance boundaries between State and Local Roads outside of the Metropolitan Region (a policy for the Metropolitan Region was published in 2020). WALGA has initiated a sector consultation process and will provide feedback to Main Roads.

## **2. ROAD FUNDING**

### **Multi-Criteria Assessment (MCA) Model Revisions**

The WALGA Infrastructure Team is working with the Regional Road Groups to harmonise the MCA models used by Regional Road Groups to prioritise projects for Road Project Grant funding. The proposed changes to the MCA models reflect the new focus areas of the State Roads Funds to Local Governments Agreement, while still allowing for flexibility to recognise the significant differences between regions. Six out of nine Regional Road Groups have commenced the MCA revision process, while the remaining three Regional Road Groups will begin the process in the upcoming months.

## **3. TRANSPORT**

### **Bus Stop Infrastructure**

WALGA State Council sought some amendments to the draft Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement 2025 to 2029 at the December 2024 meeting. The Public Transport Authority has provided an initial response to these matters and further discussions are progressing.

### **Active Transport and Micromobility-Discussion Paper**

The discussion paper has now been completed. WALGA proposes to host a forum and workshop with Elected Members and key stakeholders, followed by a workshop with the Local Government Active Transport Reference Group. The aim of these sessions is to engage high-level strategic stakeholders in shaping actionable and strategic policy positions for WALGA in active transport. This forum presents a valuable opportunity to collaboratively develop practical and effective policy outcomes that address Active Transport challenges at the local, state, and national levels.

## **4. ASSET MANAGEMENT**

### **Road Assets and Expenditure Report Update Project**

Tango IT has completed a final report detailing the current processes used to develop the RAE Report and identifying options for improvement in data collection, interpretation, and presentation. The consultant has also prepared final Request for Proposal documentation for WALGA to use in going to market to undertake the suggested improvement works.

## **5. UTILITIES**

### **Underground Power**

A template Co-funding Agreement between a Local Government and Western Power was completed and has been distributed to Local Governments with projects in the current Targeted Underground Power Program. This Agreement deals only with funding. Other project related matters such as consultation and communications protocols need to be addressed using an MOU or exchange of letters. The diverse needs of Local Governments meant that this was too difficult to address in a common template.

Representatives from Local Governments with projects in the Targeted Underground Power Program met during December to provide feedback on the template and discuss a range of other matters arising during program development.

The Targeted Underground Power Program Steering Committee received a presentation on the modelled costs to the State Government, Western Power and property owners of options to reduce the risk of projects failing due to high costs. Currently costs of converting to underground power vary significantly between suburbs. The Committee is examining options including capping the property owner contribution. Work on a guide to the Pensioners and Seniors Rebate schemes is also progressing.

### **Streetlighting**

Following publication of its Public Lighting Asset Management Strategy V1 in early July Western Power has now engaged with WALGA regarding the process to develop V2 for completion in mid-2025. The Association is seeking to ensure that the second version considers important issues raised by Local Governments during the consultation phase including environmental impacts (dark sky, native animals and humans), smart technology controls and response to cable faults.

Work is also progressing on identifying criteria and data to design the program of work to deliver the first tranche of 50,000 replacement LED luminaires over a 30-month period commencing in mid-2025. Both programs of work are at risk of delay as a result of caretaker provisions prior to the State Government election.

## **6. ROAD SAFETY**

### **RoadWise Councils**

As of 1 January, there were 74 Local Governments registered as a RoadWise Council. There is a spread of RoadWise Councils across all ten Regional Road Group regions. In terms of road safety activity, 81% (60) of registered RoadWise Councils recorded 237 local road safety activities in the period October and December 2024.

### **RoadWise Recognised**

The RoadWise Recognised Advisory Committee last met in November 2024. Points, which signify road safety actions undertaken, were allocated to 62 RoadWise Councils. The Points that were allocated reflected actions delivered across the different areas of the [RoadWise Framework](#). This then converted to Ribbons which were awarded in recognition of a holistic approach to road safety across governance, management, and operations. In this way, the allocation of Points and Ribbons is designed to encourage local road safety toward better and ultimately best practice.

### 11.1.3 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, MEMBER SERVICES PORTFOLIO

*By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services*

#### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council note the Key Activity Report from the Member Services Portfolio to the March 2025 State Council meeting.**

*The Member Services Portfolio comprises the following work units:*

- *Association and Corporate Governance*
- *Commercial Contract Services*
- *Commercial Development*
- *Commercial Management*
- *Employee Relations*
- *Governance and Procurement*
- *Training*

The following outlines the activities of the Member Services Portfolio since the December 2024 State Council meeting.

#### **1. ASSOCIATION AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

##### **WALGA Strategic Plan 2025-2029**

At the last meeting in December 2024, State Council endorsed a new organisational Strategic Plan for WALGA. State Council, as the governing body of WALGA, is responsible for setting the overall strategic direction of the Association, which includes endorsing the Strategic Plan.

Development of the Strategic Plan was an involved process of consultation and discussion over the course of the past year. Supported by Keogh Consulting, key inputs into the development of the Strategy included facilitated workshops with State Council and WALGA staff, targeted consultation with a sample of Members at the CEO and Mayor/President level and individual engagement with external stakeholders including Directors General and senior public sector decision makers.

The new Strategic Plan has been distributed to all Members and is available to view on the WALGA website [here](#).

#### **2. COMMERCIAL**

##### **Preferred Supplier Program (PSP) Development**

Approximately 120 new Preferred Suppliers across all panels are being contracted to the program, to be completed by February. Member endorsements are assisting to pivot the PSP towards a more relevant and active supplier base. It is also resulting in more engagement with regional suppliers and Small to Medium Enterprise (SME). The next Preferred Supplier tender is currently scheduled for release in March.

New categories for Architectural Services (32 suppliers) and Aboriginal Heritage Surveys (7 suppliers) have been implemented.



Enhancements to PSP categories are being made for Recycled Construction & Demolition Materials, Project and Operations Management, and Leisure Centre Equipment Supplies.

New PSP category development and development research is being undertaken in the areas of:

- PSP008 - Facilities management
- PSP005 – Mobility and Accessibility Equipment supplies
- PSP005 – Swimming Pool inspection services
- PSP005 - Provision of HACCC and social services
- PSP002 – Environmental Health consultants
- PSP003 – Building Inspection Services

A legal review of the current Member Conditions will be undertaken. A focus on enhancing the presence of Aboriginal business on the PSP panels will also be progressed.

With many Members currently engaged in Council Business System and ERP reviews and procurement, WALGA's PSP Panel for Business Systems Software and Services has contractual options available. Resources to raise awareness and support the use of the Panel are under development.

Phase two of the WALGA Sustainable Energy Project is currently being contracted for a new three year term commencing in April. The new term of the project involves 52 WALGA Members and incorporate a diversification strategy to further support sustainable energy infrastructure development. WALGA is also in the process of implementing a Carbon Reporting Tool to support the project analytics.

Preliminary research and scoping for an investment services project will progress during 2025

### **ARENA Future Fuels Grant Project**

WALGA has been working with 22 participating Members to complete delivery the final Electric Vehicles and charging infrastructure in line with contracted milestones. The project then moves into an evaluation and knowledge-sharing phase, extending for approximately 12 months. Work is also continuing to explore potential further opportunities for similar initiatives. WALGA has supply options available for EV charging infrastructure and related services.

### **3. EMPLOYEE RELATIONS**

WALGA ER continues to represent the sector in a number of applications in the WA Industrial Relations Commission (WAIRC):

- Applications CICS 5, 8 and 9 of 2023 - Union demarcation dispute. In response to sector feedback, WALGA successfully applied to intervene in these applications. These applications relate to a dispute over coverage of Local Government employees between three unions, the Western Australian Municipal, Administrative, Clerical and Services Union of Employees (WASU), Local Government, Racing and Cemeteries Employees Union (LGRCEU) and the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union of Workers (CFMEUW). Essentially the WASU is seeking an order that it cover Local Government outside employees to the exclusion of the CFMEUW. The matter is ongoing and has had 20 hearing days in July and October, with the CFMEUW evidence still to be completed. During the hearing in October 2024 the CFMEUW made a number of applications. One application was to dismiss the matter, which the

Commission rejected and dismissed. Another application was for discovery of documents from WALGA and the WASU, which the Commission ordered and WALGA and WASU complied with. The CFMEUW also made a second application for discovery of documents from WALGA, WASU and the LGRCEU. A directions hearing on this second application was held on 16 December 2024 and the parties were directed to file any formal applications to dismiss the CFMEUW's second application and written submissions by 14 February, with this matter to be determined on the papers (without oral argument). Following the Commission's decision with respect to the CFMEU's second application, the matter will be listed for a further directions hearing to determine next steps and list the substantive application for further hearing dates.

- Applications APPL 3 and 4 of 2023 – concerned award variations sort by the WASU to the Local Government Officers' (WA) Award 2021 (LGO Award) and the Municipal Employees Award (WA) 2021 (ME Award) as follows:
  - increase casual loading from 20% to 25%;
  - conversion of casual employees who have worked for more than 12 months to permanent employment;
  - increased regional redundancy entitlements for employees working outside Perth;
  - an additional week of entitlement to annual leave for shift workers;
  - preferential treatment of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander persons in Local Government employment processes;
  - up to 5 days of Cultural and Ceremonial Leave for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander persons in the LGO Award; and
  - inclusion of Flexible Working Arrangements.

As a result of new State IR legislation, a consent position was reached in relation to the 25% casual loading and flexible working arrangements. The matter was heard over 6 days concluding on 29 November 2024 before Commissioner Walkington and the decision has been reserved.

- Application APPL 164 of 2024 has been made by the WASU through s80BH of the *Industrial Relations Act 1979* (WA) (IR Act) to be named to the Local Government Industrial Award – Industrial Agreement (LGIA-IA) which is an instrument that transitioned to the State Industrial Relations system. If WASU is named to the LGIA-IA it is then able to take action to enforce the instrument, but more importantly the WASU could 'retire' it under s. 41(7) of the IR Act and the state awards (LGO and ME Awards amongst others) would then apply. Sixty Local Governments have been named to APPL 164 of 2024 and WALGA will be directly representing the Shire of Dundas (lead Local Government) as their industrial agent in this matter and assisting other Local Governments with their responses to oppose the application on the ground that it does not correctly identify the LGIA-IA and that some Local Governments were incorrectly named to the Application because they do not apply the LGIA-IA. The decision for WALGA to only directly represent the lead Local Government was taken so that WALGA did not get 'conflicted out' of the proceedings as has occurred in other matters. The Commission granted an extension of time for filing of responses to 24 January, and most Local Governments have already filed their responses.

### **New IR Legislation**

The Minister for Industrial Relations the Hon. Simone McGurk introduced the *Industrial Relations Legislation Amendment Bill 2024* into WA Parliament 18 September 2024. It was passed by WA Parliament on 6 November 2024 and received Royal Assent on 13 November 2024 (IRLA Act)

IRLA Act is part of the Government's review of the State IR system that commenced with the 2018 Ministerial review. The IRLA Act will amend the:

- *Industrial Relations Act 1979* (IR Act)
- *Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993* (MCE Act)
- *Health Services Act 2016*
- *Public Sector Management Act 1994*

The IRLA Act:

- Redefines the terms "employee" and "employer" and "casual employee".
- Establishes a fit and proper person test for a union official to obtain a right of entry permit under the *Industrial Relations Act 1979* (IR Act).
- Amends the *Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993 (WA)* (MCE Act) to increase the statutory minimum casual loading from 20 to 25% and amend public holiday minimums.
- Establishes a new employee right to request a flexible working arrangement consistent with the *Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth)* (FW Act).
- Enables the *Local Government (Long Service Leave) Regulations 2024* to be enforced under the IR Act.
- Introduces a new prohibition on sexual harassment in connection with work, as contained in the FW Act.
- Increases the penalties for contravening State employment laws. The maximum penalties will increase from \$65,000 to \$93,000 for a body corporate and \$13,000 to \$18,000 for an individual.

Most of the changes came into effect 31 January. WALGA held a webinar for Local Governments on 3 December 2024 to prepare for the changes and will continue to provide resources and assistance.

#### **4. GOVERNANCE AND PROCUREMENT**

##### **Local Government Legislative Reform**

The Local Government Amendment Bill 2024 was Assented to on 6 December 2024.

Some of the items have come into effect immediately are:

- Clarified Roles and Responsibilities of Council, Council Members, Mayors and Presidents and CEOs
- Local Law Reforms
- Unreasonable / Vexatious Complaints
- Changes to Local Government Borrowing Powers.

Regulations relating to Superannuation for Elected Members have recently been gazetted. It is worth noting that Superannuation came into effect on 1 February 2025 as discretionary for Local Governments. Local Governments will need to make a decision by Absolute Majority if they wish to pay superannuation to Elected Members.

The regulation to mandate Bands 1 and 2 to pay superannuation to Elected Members will take effect from 19 October 2025.

Therefore, those Band 1 and 2 Local Governments that have not resolved to pay superannuation, will be required to pay superannuation from 19 October 2025.

Other items will require regulations and further work: including:

- Development Assessment Panel (DAP) Functions
- Office of the Local Government Inspector
- Local Government Monitors
- Independent Member and Chair of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee
- Clarified Regional Subsidiaries Provisions

In addition, regulations relating to Tranche 1 amendments are still required:

Amendments yet to commence include:

- Council Plans
- Standardised Meeting Procedures
- Communications Agreement
- Community Engagement Charter and Surveys
- Publication of CEO Performance Review (consultation has commenced)
- New Lease and Contract Registers (consultation has commenced)

In respect to CEO Matters and Online Registers, WALGA circulated an Info Page and Discussion paper, seeking feedback on draft regulations. Responses are requested by 19 March and will inform a State Council Agenda item to go through the April round of Zone meetings.

## **5. TRAINING**

The Training Team has recently undertaken the validation of our nationally recognised program. The team held validation meetings over 4 full days with relevant trainers/assessors and subject matter experts to ensure that all our training resources and assessment tools are up to date. Identified changes are then checked, improved and implemented throughout the relevant resources and assessments on our Student Portal. Accurate recording of those changes is a key RTO compliance requirement which has been overseen by the RTO Compliance team.

The February intake of the Certificate III in Local Government has received good enquiries so far and we are currently enrolling students for a 5 February start. We also prepare for the virtual Graduation ceremony on 25 February where we celebrate the achievement of six successful graduates.

2025 has started with a bang for on-site training with eight workshops confirmed for delivery across WA before April. Short course enrolments are starting to come in with the new Residential Design Codes (R – Codes) being very popular again followed by a range of Governance and Employee Relations workshops.

We are working to launch the Diploma of Local Government for Officers, including the specialisation for Planning with the first delivery starting in late April/ early May.

We are also working with our Training Council, the Financial, Administrative and Professional Services WA and the State Training Board to have the Diploma of Local Government made available as an existing worker Traineeship.

## 11.1.4 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, POLICY PORTFOLIO

*By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy*

### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council note the Key Activity Report from the Policy Portfolio to the March 2025 State Council meeting.**

*The Policy Portfolio comprises the following work units:*

- *Economics*
- *Environment and Waste*
- *Planning and Building*
- *Emergency Management*
- *Community*

The following outlines the activities of the Policy Portfolio since the December 2024 State Council meeting.

### **1. ECONOMICS**

#### **Economic Briefing**

In December, WALGA released its latest [Economic Briefing](#) (see [item 10.6](#)). The next Economic Briefing will be released in March.

#### **Renewable Energy**

WALGA is progressing its advocacy and initiatives to support Local Governments since State Council endorsed three energy transition advocacy positions in September 2024 (see [item 10.3](#)).

### **2. ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE**

#### **Native Vegetation**

WALGA is progressing with actions identified in the Native Vegetation Issues Paper considered by Zones in December 2024, including the development of a range of capacity-building activities and advocacy to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation regarding challenges impacting Local Government. Three more Field Days are being planned to assist Local Governments with managing native vegetation in road reserves.

#### **E-waste Transport Rebates**

Following the commencement of the e-waste landfill ban on 1 July 2024, WALGA has been successful in securing State Government funding to assist regional and remote Local Governments in the cost of e-waste transportation for recycling. The [E-waste Regional Transportation Support Scheme](#), (ERTSS) administered by DWER, will provide rebates for eligible Local Governments of up to 50 per cent of transport costs. \$766,000 has been allocated for the ERTSS, which will run until 30 June 2025.

### **Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer**

WALGA having escalated PSHB advocacy and political engagement over the last year, is currently preparing a submission to the National Consultative Committee on key priorities for inclusion in the PSHB Response Plan (see [item 10.5](#)).

## **3. PLANNING AND BUILDING**

### **Urban Forests**

#### *WALGA 2025 Urban Forest Conference*

Tickets for the WALGA 2025 [Urban Forest Conference](#) being held on 14 February at Murdoch University have sold out, with more than 380 registered to attend. The theme of the Conference is **Raising Resilience**, focusing on the unprecedented threats to urban forests from clearing for development, climate change, pests and disease. The Minister for Energy; Environment; Climate Action, Hon Reece Whitby MLA and the Shadow Minister for the Environment Hon Neil Thomson MLC will address the Conference.

#### *Urban Greening Grants*

Round Three recipients of Urban Greening Grants were [announced](#) in December 2024. A total of \$1.6 million was awarded to 16 Local Governments: Bayswater, Belmont, Cambridge, Canning, Cottesloe, Fremantle, Gosnells, Joondalup, Kalamunda, Kwinana, Melville, Mundaring, Murray, Rockingham, Serpentine Jarrahdale and Swan. These Local Governments will plant over 5,400 trees and 238,700 understorey species in winter 2025.

The Urban Greening Grant Program has now closed. A total of 26 Local Governments secured funding under the Program to plant over 33,000 trees and 260,000 understorey plants by winter 2025.

#### *Labor Election Commitment*

[WALGA's 2025 State Election campaign](#), calls for an additional \$40 million over the next decade for an expanded, statewide urban forest program.

WA Labor has committed to double Perth's tree canopy cover to 30% by 2040, including a new urban canopy growth program (\$10 million) and 'treebates' to encourage Western Australians to plant native trees (\$6.9 million) if re-elected.

While welcoming the announcement, WALGA stressed that these programs should be extended statewide and that the Government must take measures to address the loss of existing trees on private land as part of its promised Urban Greening Strategy (see WALGA's media statement [here](#)).

### **Coastwest Grants**

Applications for the [2025-26 Coastwest grants](#) opened in January. WALGA will host an information session for eligible Local Governments on 12 February in partnership with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and the Department of Transport. Grant applications close on 14 April.

## 4. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### Disaster Ready Fund Round Three

\$200 million is available under Round Three of the Australian Government's [DRF](#) which opened on 22 January. DRF is a significant funding opportunity for the sector, with 17 WA Local Government projects receiving more than \$23 million in Round Two, including for fire danger rating signage, community education, evacuation centre improvements and infrastructure projects.

Local Governments are encouraged to review the [guideline changes for Round Three](#) before submitting their project proposals. Proposals must be submitted to DFES via the [online application portal](#) by 5pm(AWST) on 2 April.

### Emergency WA App

The State Government [launched the Emergency WA App](#) on 21 December 2024. The App, available in the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#), delivers instant notifications of warnings, incidents, Total Fire Bans and elevated Fire Danger Ratings on mobile devices. Users can set multiple custom watch zones for their homes and locations important to them and opt-in to receive push notifications relevant to them. This will be extremely helpful for both the community and visitors to stay in the know about hazards near them.

### Local Emergency Management Arrangements Improvement Program

WALGA has submitted its LEMA Recommendations Report to DFES which will inform the development of new LEMA guidelines and resources. WALGA is leading a Local Government LEMA Working Group, with representatives from 10 diverse Local Governments co-designing fit-for-purpose LEMA templates and supporting resources to be tested in a 2025 pilot program.

### Bushfire Risk Management Coordinators

WALGA will continue to host two Bushfire Risk Mitigation Coordinators (BRMCs) until June 2028 under a funding agreement with DFES. BRMCs work with WALGA, DFES and Local Governments to develop and implement Local Government bushfire mitigation programs, focusing on building capacity for Local Governments with limited capacity and expertise to manage their ongoing mitigation program using in-house resources.

### State Emergency Management Committee

The SEMC met on 4 December 2024, attended by WALGA CEO, Nick Sloan. The meeting communique can be found [here](#).

### State Bushfire Advisory Committee

WALGA Executive Manager Policy, Nicole Matthews is a member of the State Bushfire Advisory Committee, which met on 3 December 2024. The meeting communique can be found [here](#).

### Election Commitments

The Nationals and Labor have made a number of election commitments aligned with WALGA's emergency management State election priorities (see [item 10.2](#))

## 5. COMMUNITY

### **WALGA 2025 Aboriginal Engagement Forum**

The WALGA 2025 Aboriginal Engagement Forum will be held on 9 April at the State Reception Centre in Kaarta Gar-up (Kings Park), with the theme "Stepping Up: Taking local Aboriginal engagement and Reconciliation to the next level". Program planning is underway and being informed by a reference group of Elected Members and officers. State Council members are strongly encouraged to attend and promote the event within their zones.

### **Public Health Act**

Consultation on the [draft State Public Health Plan 2025-2030](#) was held in early February. WALGA made a submission aligned to previous submission relating to the implementation of Stage 5 of the Public Health Act. The submission emphasised the role Local Government provide in the protection and enhancement of health and well-being within their communities across various responsibilities and functions. The submission also stated the need to ensure sufficient support and expertise within State agencies to support the preparation of Local Public Health Plans, especially in relation to the new climate change priority. The development of the submission was guided by the WALGA Public Health Plans Reference Group.

### **Regional Primary Health Services**

Following its tabling at the December 2024 State Council meeting, the Local Government Primary Healthcare Survey Report has been shared with Local Government CEOs. WALGA's advocacy on this issue is being informed by the survey results and additional feedback from Band 4 Local Governments who have collectively identified access to GP services as a key priority. Advocacy to the Australian and State governments is focussed on measures to increase access to GP services in areas of need and reduce the financial impost on Local Government, particularly in the context of the upcoming state and federal elections and the renegotiation of the National Health Reform Agreement and bilateral agreement between WA and the Commonwealth.

### **Access and Inclusion**

#### *Most Accessible Community Western Australia (MACWA) Awards*

On 5 December, WALGA joined the Hon Don Punch MLA, Minister for Disability Services, the Department of Communities and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) at the annual [MACWA Awards](#) celebrating Local Government's efforts to create accessible and inclusive communities. Award winners included the Shires of Augusta Margaret River and Pingelly and the cities of Kalamunda, Swan and Greater Geraldton.

#### *WALGA Forum*

On 20 February WALGA will host an Access and Inclusion Forum, a commitment under the [State Disability Strategy 2020 - 2030, Second Action Plan](#). The Forum theme is 'Building on your Disability Access and Inclusion Plan - embedding awareness across Local Government functions to respond to emerging issues'. The Forum aims to support sector building capacity and increase collaboration across the broad remit of Local Government.



**Child Safeguarding**

WALGA hosted a Child Safeguarding CEO Breakfast on 12 December. The DLGSC session, facilitated by the Western Australian Council of Social Services (WACOSS), focused on the role of CEOs in managing child safeguarding risks and promoting child safety and wellbeing within Local Governments. The session forms part of DLGSC's commitment to delivering tailored child safeguarding resources and support for the Local Government sector over the coming year.

**Arts and Culture Infrastructure Grants**

The State Government launched [Creative WA: A 10 year vision to grow and sustain our creative ecosystem](#) in December which includes \$30 million towards refurbishment and equipment needs for arts and culture centres. Local Governments can apply now through [Lotterywest](#).

## 11.2 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That the President's Report for March 2025 be received.**

## 11.3 CEO'S REPORT

### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That the CEO's Report for March 2025 be received.**

## 12 ADDITIONAL ZONE RESOLUTIONS

To be advised following Zone meetings.

## 13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of the WALGA State Council will be held at the City of Swan on Wednesday, 7 May.

## 14 CLOSURE

## STATUS REPORT ON STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
<b>6 December</b> Item 8.1 2024 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	That: 1. the item 7.1 Amendments to <i>Cat Act 2011</i> - Allow Local Governments to Make Local Laws to Contain Cats to the Owner's Property be endorsed. ... 3. the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Governance Policy Team for further work to be undertaken: 7.2 Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-Banking 7.3 Advocacy for Expansion of Differential Rating to Include Long Term Unoccupied Commercial Buildings (Property Activation Levy).  RESOLUTION 089.5/2024	<a href="#">Advocacy Positions Manual</a> updated.  Correspondence has been sent to the minister for Local Government requesting the CAT Act be reviewed to provide Local Governments with the ability to contain cats on an owner's property.  In addition, work has commenced on developing a template Cat Local Law to assist Local Government to make local laws to the extent of the current local law-making powers.  Work on items 7.2 and 7.3 is being carried out and an update will be provided for the next meeting.		Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
<b>6 December</b> Item 8.1 2024 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	That: ... 2. the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Environment Policy Team for further work to be undertaken: 7.2 Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-Banking 7.4 Action on Asbestos for Western Australia 7.6 Advocacy for Accessibility. ... 4. the following resolution from the 2024 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the People	Will be considered at upcoming meetings of the Environment Policy Team.		Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	<p>and Place Policy Team for further work to be undertaken: 7.5 Addressing the Impracticality of Local Governments Funding Department of Communities and GROH Houses.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 089.5/2024</p>			
<p><b>6 December</b> Item 8.2 Local Government Elections Advocacy Positions</p>	<p>That item 1 be deferred, and the Secretariat further investigate implications of compulsory and voluntary participation in Local Government elections and report back to State Council.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 090.5/2024</p> <p>That WALGA adopt the following Elections Advocacy Positions:</p> <p><i>The Local Government sector supports:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Councillors serve four-year terms with elections every two years and half of the Council positions spilled at each election.</i></li> <li>2. <i>First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for Local Government elections. If Optional Preferential Voting (OPV) remains as the primary method of voting, the sector supports the removal of the 'proportional' part of the voting method for general elections.</i></li> <li>3. <i>First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for internal Council elections.</i></li> <li>4. <i>Councils holding elections by means of in-person, postal and/or electronic voting.</i></li> <li>5. <i>Current legislative provisions of Mayor/President of Class 1 and Class 2 Local Governments being directly elected by the community and Class 3 and Class 4 Local Governments determining whether</i></li> </ol>	<p><a href="#">Advocacy Positions Manual</a> updated.</p> <p>Preparation of a report on implications of compulsory and voluntary participation in Local Government elections in progress.</p> <p>Letter written to Minister for Local Government advising on the five advocacy positions endorsed.</p>		<p>Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services</p>

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	<p><i>its Mayor or President is elected by the Council or by the community.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 091.5/2024</p>			
<p><b>6 December</b> Item 8.3 Aboriginal Communities Advocacy Positions</p>	<p>That State Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Replace Advocacy Position 3.1.2 Reconciliation with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>WALGA:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Acknowledges the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community and embraces the vast Aboriginal cultural diversity throughout Western Australia.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Supports the efforts of Local Governments to progress reconciliation at the local level.</i></li> </ol> </li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Remove Advocacy Position 3.1.3 Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.</li> <li>3. Replace Advocacy Position 3.1.4 <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021</i> and South West Native Title Settlement with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>3.1.4 Aboriginal Heritage Protection</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>WALGA supports the recognition, protection, conservation and preservation of Aboriginal cultural heritage and recognises the fundamental importance of Aboriginal cultural heritage to Aboriginal people and the State.</i></li> <li>2. <i>The State Government must:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <i>Ensure that legislative requirements balance the need to protect Aboriginal heritage with</i></li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p><a href="#">Advocacy Positions Manual</a> updated.</p>	<p>January 2025</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	<p><i>the need for Local Government to undertake activities in a timely and affordable manner.</i></p> <p><i>b. Provide adequate resourcing to ensure all parties have the capacity, capability and resources to discharge their statutory obligations.</i></p> <p><i>c. Provide support and guidance to Local Governments to ensure that they have the resources, capacity and capability to effectively and efficiently deliver essential services to community while protecting Aboriginal heritage.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 092.5/2024</p>			
<p><b>6 December</b> Item 8.4 Family and Domestic Violence Advocacy Position</p>	<p>That State Council replace Advocacy Position 3.10.1 Family and Domestic Violence with the following:</p> <p><i>3.10.1 Family and Domestic Violence</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. Family and domestic violence is unacceptable and has devastating and long-term impacts on individuals, families and communities.</i></li> <li><i>2. Preventing family and domestic violence requires commitment from all levels of government, different sectors, and members of the community.</i></li> <li><i>3. WALGA calls on the State and Australian governments to provide adequate funding and support for family and domestic violence programs and services, in particular:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a. Funding for collaborative and connected family and domestic violence programs and services that are place-based and people-centred; and</i></li> <li><i>b. Better integration of family and domestic violence initiatives, including capacity building</i></li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p><a href="#">Advocacy Positions Manual</a> updated.</p>	<p>January 2025</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	<p><i>across all tiers of government and community services.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 093.5/2024</p>			
<p><b>6 December</b> Item 8.5 Container Deposit System Policy Statement and Advocacy Position</p>	<p>That State Council replace the existing Container Deposit Systems Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 7.6 Container Deposit Systems with the following:</p> <p><i>7.6 Container Deposit Systems</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. Local Government supports the WA Containers for Change Scheme and acknowledges its contribution to reducing litter, increasing material recovery and providing employment opportunities across the state.</i></li> <li><i>2. To maximise the benefits of the WA Scheme, Local Government calls on the State Government to:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a. Maintain a resource recovery target of 85% for eligible containers and a focus on litter reduction.</i></li> <li><i>b. Expand the range of containers accepted in the Scheme, by:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>i. 2026: to include wine bottles, spirit bottles and larger sizes of currently eligible containers,</i></li> <li><i>ii. 2030: to include plain milk and milk alternative containers and composite container types, and</i></li> <li><i>iii. 2035: other container types.</i></li> </ol> </li> <li><i>c. Ensure national alignment of the materials covered by the Scheme and consistent messaging.</i></li> <li><i>d. Maintain a State-based and managed Scheme.</i></li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p><a href="#">Advocacy Positions Manual</a> updated.</p>	<p>January 2025</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	<p><i>e. Review the deposit amount to appropriately incentivise community engagement.</i></p> <p><i>f. Increase the number of refund and donation points to ensure community access, including in public places and at events.</i></p> <p><i>g. Ensure refund points are financially sustainable.</i></p> <p><i>h. Leverage the refund point collection network to provide drop off points for other materials covered by effective product stewardship schemes.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 094.5/2024</p>			
<p><b>6 December</b> Item 8.6 Bus Stop Infrastructure Agreement</p>	<p>That State Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provides in principle support for the proposed Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement between WALGA and the Public Transport Authority 2024/25 to 2028/29.</li> <li>2. Request the WALGA Secretariat negotiate with the Public Transport Authority seeking: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Deletion of the word "typically" from Clauses 6.2, 8.1 (ii) and 8.6 (i)</li> <li>b. Indexation of funding provided under the Bus Shelter Subsidy Program (BSSP) and Bus Shelter Maintenance Assistance Scheme (BSMAS) during or at the end of the Agreement</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Authorise the WALGA President to sign the Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement, on the completion of best endeavours to negotiate with the Public Transport Authority.</li> <li>4. Refer the request for WALGA develop an advocacy position that Commonwealth Disability Standards have a provision for minimum standards of public transport shelter to the Infrastructure Policy Team.</li> </ol>	<p>Negotiations with the PTA to amend the draft Agreement to incorporate the matters identified are on-going.</p>		<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure</p>



MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	RESOLUTION 095.5/2024			
<b>6 December</b> Item 8.7 2025 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members	That State Council endorse the submission to the 2025 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members.  RESOLUTION 096.5/2024	Submission lodged with the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal on 16 December 2024.  <a href="#">Advocacy Positions Manual</a> updated.	January 2025	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
<b>6 December</b> Item 8.8 Submission on the Draft State Hazard Plan - Fire	That State Council endorse the Submission on the State Hazard Plan – Fire with wording amendments to Recommendations 2 and 3 as follows: <i>2. Provide a single, streamlined process for Local Governments to recoup costs for bushfire incidents and adequate funding for all aspects of bushfire emergency management responsibilities the State has delegated to Local Governments across, prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.</i> <i>3. Provide additional resources, support, and educational materials for Local Governments to engage their communities in bushfire risk reduction, preparedness, and resilience building through the Mitigation Activity Fund Grant Program and/or other mechanisms.</i>  RESOLUTION 097.5/2024	WALGA submission lodged on 9 December 2024.	December 2024	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy
<b>6 December</b> Item 8.9 WALGA Strategic Plan 2025-2029	That WALGA's Strategic Plan 2025-2029 be endorsed.  RESOLUTION 098.5/2024	A copy of WALGA's Strategic Plan 2025-2029 has been distributed to all Local Government Members and	January 2025	Tony Brown Executive Director

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
		is available to view on the WALGA website.		Member Services
<b>6 December</b> Item 8.10 Submission on the Final Report of the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding (Colvin Review)	That State Council endorse the submission on the Final Report of the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding (the Colvin Review).  RESOLUTION 099.5/2024	WALGA submission lodged on 9 December 2024.	December 2024	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy
<b>6 December</b> Item 8.11 LGIS Board Appointments – CONFIDENTIAL	That: 1. President Christopher Antonio be appointed to the LGIS Board as Non-Metropolitan Elected Member; 2. Mr John Pearson be reappointed to the LGIS Board as Metropolitan Officer; and 3. Mr Peter Forbes term as Independent Director <del>and Chair</del> of the LGIS Board be extended for an additional 12 months.  RESOLUTION 100.5/2024	LGIS notified of Board appointments.	December 2024	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
<b>6 December 2024</b> Item 8.12 Appointment to State Council Policy Team	That State Council appoint Cr Haeden Miles, the State Council representative from the East Metropolitan Zone to the People and Place Policy Team.  RESOLUTION 101.5/2024	Noted	December 2024	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
<b>6 December 2024</b> Item 8.13 Finance and Services Committee	That State Council: 1. endorse the Minutes of the Finance and Services Committee meeting held on 20 November 2024; and 2. endorse the revised Budget 2024-25.  RESOLUTION 102.5/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revised Budget: endorsed.</li> <li>Subscription Model Review: Engagement with Members most affected commenced.</li> </ul>	December 2024	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
Minutes – 20 November 2024		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WALGA Sustainable Energy Project Phase Two: Further contract term being finalised.</li> <li>Council Connect Transition: Transition to Preferred Panel Supplier program being implemented.</li> </ul>		
<b>6 December 2024</b> Item 8.14 Local Government House Trust Board of Management Minutes – 20 November 2024	That State Council note the Minutes of the Local Government House Trust Board of Management meeting held on 20 November 2024.  RESOLUTION 103.5/2024	Noted.	December 2024	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
<b>6 December 2024</b> Item 8.15 Selection Committee Minutes – 13 November 2024	That State Council: 1. note the resolutions contained in the 13 November 2024 Selection Committee Minutes; and 2. endorse the recommendations contained in the 13 November 2024 Selection Committee Minutes.  RESOLUTION 104.5/2024	Selection Committee items have been actioned.	December 2024	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
<b>6 December 2024</b> Item 8.16 LGIS Board Minutes – 23 August and 25 October 2024 – CONFIDENTIAL	That State Council note the Minutes of the LGIS Board meetings held on 23 August 2024 and 25 October 2024.  RESOLUTION 105.5/2024	Noted.	December 2024	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
<b>6 December 2024</b> Item 9.3 Governance Policy Team Report	That State Council: 1. Note the report from the Governance Policy Team for the 6 December 2024 meeting. 2. Determine to: a. retain the following Advocacy Positions with amendment: i. Advocacy Position 2.8.1 Industry Award Coverage ii. Advocacy Position 2.8.3 Registration of WALGA as an Employer Organisation b. retire Advocacy Position 2.8.2 Local Government Long Service Leave Regulations.  RESOLUTION 106.5/2024	<a href="#">Advocacy Positions Manual</a> updated.	January 2025	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
<b>13 November 2024</b> <b>Flying Minute</b>  Submission on the Productivity Commission Circular Economy Inquiry	That State Council endorse WALGA's Submission on the Productivity Commission Inquiry - Opportunities in the Circular Economy.  RESOLUTION 247.FM/2024	WALGA submission lodged on 15 November 2024.  Included in March State Council Agenda as an item for noting ( <a href="#">item 10.7</a> )	November 2024	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy
<b>6 December 2023</b> Item 7.1 2023 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	That the following resolutions from the 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the appropriate Policy Team for further work to be undertaken.  5.4 Regional and Remote Housing <i>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</i>	WALGA's advocacy on the provision of Government funded housing programs focuses on the need for enabling infrastructure, adequate supply responsive to community, including increased funding in failing markets. This enables WALGA to provide a strategic position and advocate for statewide outcomes while retaining the flexibility for Local Governments to support and invest in programs.	January 2024	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	<p><i>and remote towns. Social housing is addressed at both the State and Federal levels.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 501.5/2023</p>			
<p><b>1 March 2023</b> Item 7.4 Submission on Draft Guideline Minimising Noise Impact from Outdoor Community Basketball Facilities</p>	<p>That WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note that the Environment Minister has withdrawn the Draft Guideline: Minimising noise impact from outdoor community basketball.</li> <li>Write to the Ministers for Environment, Local Government, Sport and Planning requesting the formation of a cross Government working group, including relevant representative bodies, to consider and develop solutions to balance urban density and infill, public recreation and noise management.</li> </ol> <p>RESOLUTION 422.1/2023</p>	<p>Letter sent to the Minister's office on 29 July 2024 with a follow up conducted. No response received.</p>	<p>January 2025</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>
<p><b>7 December 2022</b> Item 5.1 2022 Annual General Meeting Resolutions</p>	<p>The following resolutions from the 2022 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the relevant Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:</p> <p>...</p> <p>3.1 Road Traffic Issues <i>That WALGA advocate on behalf of the Local Government sector to the State Government and in particular, Main Roads, to increase importance and weight given to local knowledge and input regarding road traffic issues including requests for speed reduction, intersection treatments and overall preventative and traffic safety measures.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 394.8/2022</p>	<p>The Infrastructure Policy Team resolved: <i>That efforts to increase the importance given to Local Government knowledge regarding traffic issues be deferred for consideration in mid-2023 after a clear Local Government advocacy position on speed management is developed and endorsed.</i></p> <p>This matter is central to the new Speed Management Policy adopted by State Council in May 2023. Implementation strategy being considered.</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure</p>
<p><b>7 December 2022</b> Item 5.1</p>	<p>The following resolutions from the 2022 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the relevant Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:</p>	<p>The Infrastructure Policy Team resolved:</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>Ian Duncan</p>

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
2022 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	<p>...</p> <p>3.2 Car Parking and Traffic Congestion Around Schools  <i>That WALGA engages with the State Government on behalf of Local Government to review issues associated with car parking and traffic congestion around school sites including but not limited to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Reviewing car parking standards for schools;</i></li> <li>2. <i>Ensuring sufficient land is set aside for the provision of parking on school sites;</i></li> <li>3. <i>Reviewing the co-location of schools to avoid issues being exacerbated;</i></li> <li>4. <i>Restricting school access from major roads;</i></li> <li>5. <i>Developing plans to enable schools to manage school traffic;</i></li> <li>6. <i>Develop programs to educate drivers; and</i></li> <li>7. <i>Develop options and implement initiatives to encourage alternative modes of transport to school.</i></li> </ol> <p>RESOLUTION 394.8/2022</p>	<p><i>That WALGA uses its role at the Safe Active Travel to School Working Group to advocate for these outcomes and provide advice back to the Local Government sector.</i></p>		Executive Manager Infrastructure
<p><b>7 December 2022</b>  Item 5.1  2022 Annual General Meeting Resolutions</p>	<p>The following resolutions from the 2022 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the relevant Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:</p> <p>3.3 Proposal for Regional Road Maintenance Contracts with Main Roads WA  <i>That WALGA assist Local Governments and work with the Hon Minister Rita Saffioti to introduce a similar program that is currently in play in Queensland and introduce a sole invitee Program for Local Governments to engage in a Road Maintenance Performance Contract with Main Roads WA.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 394.8/2022</p>	<p>The Infrastructure Policy Team resolved:  <i>That the opportunities and interest in contracting Local Governments to undertake maintenance and minor works on the State road network be explored in discussion with Main Roads WA.</i></p>	Complete	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
<p><b>1 December 2021</b> Item 5.3 2021 Annual General Meeting</p>	<p>That the following resolutions from the 2021 WALGA Annual General Meeting be endorsed for action:</p> <p>Cost of Regional Development <i>That WALGA makes urgent representation to the State Government to address the high cost of development in regional areas for both residential and industrial land, including the prohibitive cost of utilities headworks, which has led to market failure in many regional towns.</i></p> <p>...</p> <p>RESOLUTION 294.7/2021</p>	<p><a href="#">Advocacy Positions Manual</a> updated.</p> <p>WALGA continues to advocate for policy changes and government investments to address the high cost of development in regional areas for both residential and industrial land in regional WA.</p> <p>The 2025 State Election Priorities identifies measures required to address the high cost of development in regional areas. WA Labor has committed to a \$25 million Regional Housing Support Fund to provide grants to unlock and expedite housing across regional WA.</p> <p>WA Liberals has committed to a \$100 million regional housing infrastructure program and a \$300 million investment in enabling infrastructure such as sewerage, roads and water.</p> <p>WA Nationals have committed to a \$1 billion over 10 years Regional Headworks Fund.</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure</p>