

# **State Council Summary Minutes 2 July 2025**

Ordinary meeting no. 3 of 2025 of the Western Australian Local Government Association State Council held at ONE70, LV3, 170 Railway Parade, West Leederville at 4:15pm.

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## 1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

### 1.1 OPENING

The Chair declared the meeting open at 4:18pm.

### 1.2 ATTENDANCE

<b>Members</b>	WALGA President - <b>Chair</b> WALGA Deputy President Central Metropolitan Zone Avon-Midland Country Zone Central Country Zone Central Metropolitan Zone East Metropolitan Zone East Metropolitan Zone Goldfields Esperance Country Zone Great Eastern Country Zone Kimberley Country Zone Murchison Country Zone North Metropolitan Zone North Metropolitan Zone North Metropolitan Zone Northern Country Zone Peel Country Zone Pilbara Country Zone South East Metropolitan Zone South East Metropolitan Zone South Metropolitan Zone South Metropolitan Zone South Metropolitan Zone South West Country Zone	President Cr Karen Chappel AM JP  Cr Paul Kelly President Chris Antonio President Cr Phillip Blight Cr Helen Sadler President Paige McNeil Cr Haeden Miles President Cr Laurene Bonza Cr Stephen Strange President David Menzel (Deputy) President Cr Les Price Cr Michael Dudek Cr Lewis Hutton Cr Bronwyn Smith President Cr Liz Sudlow Mayor Caroline Knight Cr Wendy McWhirter-Brooks Mayor Patrick Hall Mayor Terresa Lynes Mayor Logan Howlett JP Cr Karen Wheatland Cr Barry Winmar President Cr Tony Dean
<b>Secretariat</b>	Chief Executive Officer Executive Director Member Services Executive Manager Infrastructure Executive Manager Policy Executive Manager Advocacy Chief Financial Officer Manager Association and Corporate Governance	Mr Nick Sloan Mr Tony Brown Mr Ian Duncan Ms Nicole Matthews Ms Rachel Horton Mr Rick Murray Ms Kathy Robertson

### 1.3 APOLOGIES

<b>Members</b>	Great Southern Country Zone Great Southern Country Zone Kimberley Country Zone Gascoyne Country Zone	Cr Scott Crosby Mayor Greg Stocks (Deputy) President Chris Mitchell JP President Eddie Smith
<b>Ex Officio</b>	The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor – City of Perth Local Government Professionals WA President	Deputy Lord Mayor, Cr Bruce Reynolds Mr Anthony Vuleta

## 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

Nil

## 4 MINUTES

### 4.1 MINUTES OF THE STATE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 7 MAY 2025

#### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**Moved:** President Chris Antonio

**Seconded:** Cr Karen Wheatland

**That the Minutes of the WALGA State Council meeting held on [7 May 2025](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.**

**RESOLUTION 035.3/2025**

**CARRIED**

### 4.1.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE STATE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 7 MAY 2025

Nil.

## 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.

- Mayor Caroline Knight declared an impartiality interest in item 8.2 State Development Applications and Decision Making Advocacy Position.
- President Cr Tony Dean declared an impartiality interest in item 8.6 Selection Committee Minutes – 17 June 2025.

## **6 EX OFFICIO REPORTS**

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

Deputy Lord Mayor, Cr Bruce Reynolds, was an apology for the meeting.

### **6.2 LG PROFESSIONALS REPORT**

Mr Anthony Vuleta, President, LG Professionals WA, was an apology for the meeting.

## **7 EMERGING ISSUES**

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

Nil.

## **8 MATTERS FOR DECISION**

### **8.1 SUSPENSION AND DISQUALIFICATION FOR OFFENCES ADVOCACY POSITION**

*By Jason Russell, Senior Governance Specialist*

#### **COMPOSITE RECOMMENDATION**

**Moved: Mayor Patrick Hall**  
**Seconded: Cr Karen Wheatland**

**That WALGA defers consideration of this matter for further work, including:**

- a. defining appropriately serious offences for intervention; and**
- b. addressing the role of the Local Government Inspector.**

#### **AMENDMENT**

**Moved: President Paige McNeil**  
**Seconded: Cr Haeden Miles**

**To insert a new point c. as follows:**

- c. evaluating whether advocacy for disqualification based on convictions under the Planning and Development Act 2005 and Building Act 2011 should be retained.**

**RESOLUTION 036.3/2025**

**CARRIED**

#### **THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION AS AMENDED WAS PUT**

**That WALGA defers consideration of this matter for further work, including:**

- a. defining appropriately serious offences for intervention; and**
- b. addressing the role of the Local Government Inspector.**
- c. evaluating whether advocacy for disqualification based on convictions under the Planning and Development Act 2005 and Building Act 2011 should be retained.**

**RESOLUTION 037.3/2025**

**CARRIED**

## 8.2 STATE DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS AND DECISION MAKING ADVOCACY POSITION

By Coralie Claudio, Senior Policy Advisor Planning

Mayor Caroline Knight declared an interest in this item and left the meeting at 4:28pm.

### COMPOSITE RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Mayor Terresa Lynes  
Seconded: President Cr Tony Dean

That WALGA:

1. Replace Advocacy Position 6.4 Development Assessment Panels with the following:

***WALGA calls on the State Government to:***

1. ***Ensure that decision making on development applications (DAs) is:***
  - a. ***consistent and accountable***
  - b. ***accessible to local communities***
  - c. ***respectful of, and appropriately applies, local planning frameworks in line with their statutory weight, as informed by objective, professional planning reports.***
2. ***Reform the Development Assessment Panel (DAP) system to:***
  - a. ***raise the DAP threshold from the current \$2 million to \$5 million and mandate periodic reviews of the threshold***
  - b. ***modify the composition of DAPs to provide equal representation of Specialist Members and Local Government Members***
  - c. ***review DAP processes to ensure proponents provide necessary information in a timely manner***
  - d. ***provide clear procedural guidance on the roles and functions of Local Government officers and Council, including clarification on the ability for the Administration to provide advice to Council Members***
  - e. ***allow access to the State Referral Coordination Unit for DAP applications to ensure timely and adequate referral responses from State Government agencies are provided to Local Governments***
  - f. ***where appropriate, require meetings to be held within the relevant Local Government***
  - g. ***reinstate the ability for Council to consider and provide a recommendation for a Responsible Authority Report.***
3. ***Abolish the state significant development assessment pathway (Part 11B of the Planning and Development Act 2005).***
4. ***If the significant development assessment pathway is retained, implement the following reforms:***
  - a. ***raise the cost threshold to \$50 million and mandate periodic reviews of the threshold***
  - b. ***align statutory timeframes with DAP and Local Government determined DAs***



- c. *ensure all developments are consistent with applicable local planning instruments and provide comprehensive guidelines for discretionary decision making, including applying extraordinary discretion*
- d. *delete references to 'mandatory significant development' to ensure the pathway remains entirely opt-in*
- e. *undertake periodic reviews of its operation and effectiveness.*

2. **Notes the Development Assessment Panel 2011 – 2024 Review and State Development Pathway 2020 – 2025 Review reports.**

#### **AMENDMENT**

Moved: Cr Paul Kelly  
Seconded: Cr Karen Wheatland

To insert a new point 5 as follows:

- 5. *Include in any planning report to a decision maker:*
  - a. *the value of any direct financial benefit received by the applicant associated with the granting of development bonuses through a performance-based assessment*
  - b. *the value of any community benefit proposed in exchange for consideration of development bonus.*

RESOLUTION 038.3/2025

CARRIED

#### **THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION AS AMENDED WAS PUT**

That WALGA:

- 1. **Replace Advocacy Position 6.4 Development Assessment Panels with the following:**

***WALGA calls on the State Government to:***

- 1. ***Ensure that decision making on development applications (DAs) is:***
  - a. *consistent and accountable*
  - b. *accessible to local communities*
  - c. *respectful of, and appropriately applies, local planning frameworks in line with their statutory weight, as informed by objective, professional planning reports.*
- 2. ***Reform the Development Assessment Panel (DAP) system to:***
  - a. *raise the DAP threshold from the current \$2 million to \$5 million and mandate periodic reviews of the threshold*
  - b. *modify the composition of DAPs to provide equal representation of Specialist Members and Local Government Members*
  - c. *review DAP processes to ensure proponents provide necessary information in a timely manner*
  - d. *provide clear procedural guidance on the roles and functions of Local Government officers and Council, including clarification on the ability for the Administration to provide advice to Council Members*

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e. <i>allow access to the State Referral Coordination Unit for DAP applications to ensure timely and adequate referral responses from State Government agencies are provided to Local Governments</i></li> <li>f. <i><u>where appropriate, require meetings to be held within the relevant Local Government</u></i></li> <li>g. <i><u>reinstate the ability for Council to consider and provide a recommendation for a Responsible Authority Report.</u></i></li> </ul> <p><b>3. <i>Abolish the state significant development assessment pathway (Part 11B of the Planning and Development Act 2005).</i></b></p> <p><b>4. <i>If the significant development assessment pathway is retained, implement the following reforms:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <i>raise the cost threshold to \$50 million and mandate periodic reviews of the threshold</i></li> <li>b. <i>align statutory timeframes with DAP and Local Government determined DAs</i></li> <li>c. <i>ensure all developments are consistent with applicable local planning instruments and provide comprehensive guidelines for discretionary decision making, including applying extraordinary discretion</i></li> <li>d. <i>delete references to 'mandatory significant development' to ensure the pathway remains entirely opt-in</i></li> <li>e. <i>undertake periodic reviews of its operation and effectiveness.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>5. <i><u>Include in any planning report to a decision making:</u></i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <i><u>the value of any direct financial benefit received by the applicant associated with the granting of development bonuses through a performance-based assessment.</u></i></li> <li>b. <i><u>the value of any community benefit proposed in exchange for consideration of development bonus.</u></i></li> </ul> <p><b>2. Notes the Development Assessment Panel 2011 – 2024 Review and State Development Pathway 2020 – 2025 Review reports.</b></p> <p><b>RESOLUTION 039.3/2025</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></span></p>
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Mayor Caroline Knight returned to the meeting at 4:40pm.

### 8.3 PUBLIC LIBRARY AGREEMENT

*By Rebecca Hicks, Policy Officer Community*

#### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**Moved:** President Chris Antonio  
**Seconded:** President Cr Phillip Blight

**That State Council endorse the *State and Local Level Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia.***

**RESOLUTION 040.3/2025**

**CARRIED**

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

### **8.4 FINANCE AND SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES – 18 JUNE 2025 CONFIDENTIAL**

*By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services*

#### **VOTING REQUIREMENT: ABSOLUTE MAJORITY**

#### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**Moved:** Cr Helen Sadler  
**Seconded:** President Chris Antonio

**That State Council:**

- 1. Endorse the Minutes of the Finance and Services Committee meeting held on 18 June 2025.**
- 2. Endorse the WALGA Budget 2025-26, being for the full year ending 30 June 2026 as recommended by the Finance and Services Committee.**

**RESOLUTION 041.3/2025**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **8.5 APPOINTMENT TO FINANCE AND SERVICES COMMITTEE**

*By Meghan Dwyer, State Council Governance Officer*

#### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**Moved:** President Cr Phillip Blight  
**Seconded:** President Chris Antonio

**That State Council appoint President Cr Elizabeth Sudlow, the State Council representative from the Northern Country Zone to the Finance and Services Committee.**

**RESOLUTION 042.3/2025**

**CARRIED**

## 8.6 SELECTION COMMITTEE MINUTES – 17 JUNE 2025 – CONFIDENTIAL

*By Chantelle O'Brien, Zones Governance Officer*

*Cr Tony Dean declared an interest in this item and left the meeting at 4:42pm.*

### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**Moved:** Cr Paul Kelly

**Seconded:** Cr Les Price

**That State Council:**

- 1. Notes the resolution contained in the 17 June 2025 Selection Committee Minutes.**
- 2. Endorse the Selection Committee recommendations contained in the 17 June 2025 Selection Committee Minutes.**

**RESOLUTION 043.3/2025**

**CARRIED**

*Cr Tony Dean returned to the meeting at 4:43pm.*

## 8.7 HONOURS PANEL MINUTES – 2 MAY 2025 CONFIDENTIAL

*By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services*

**NOTED**

## 8.8 LGISWA BOARD MINUTES INCLUDING ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS TO SCHEME MANAGER REMUNERATION AND TRUSTEE FEES – CONFIDENTIAL

*By Sam McLeod, Manager Commercial Services*

### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**Moved:** Mayor Logan Howlett JP

**Seconded:** Cr Karen Wheatland

**That State Council:**

1. Note the minutes of the LGISWA Board meeting held on 23 May 2025;
2. Notes the 2025-26 LGISWA Scheme Budget;

[REDACTED]

5. Notes the special request in relation to WorkCare is being considered further by WALGA as a contract management matter; and
6. Notes the establishment of a LGISWA Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) and related matters.

**RESOLUTION 044.3/2025**

**CARRIED**

## 8.9 USE OF THE ASSOCIATION'S COMMON SEAL

*By Nick Sloan, Chief Executive Officer*

### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**Moved:** Mayor Logan Howlett JP

**Seconded:** Mayor Caroline Knight

**That State Council notes and endorses the use of Common Seal being affixed to the Perth and Peel Urban Greening Strategy Financial Assistance Agreement for 2025 between the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) and WALGA.**

**RESOLUTION 045.3/2025**

**CARRIED**

8.10     CEO PERFORMANCE REVIEW REPORT 2024-2025 CONFIDENTIAL

*By Lauren Mathison, Manager People and Culture*

*All WALGA staff left the meeting at 4:45pm.*

**WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

Moved:

Cr Paul Kelly

Seconded:

Mayor Logan Howlett JP

That State Council:

RESOLUTION 046.3/2025

CARRIED

*All WALGA staff returned to the meeting at 5:05pm.*

## **9 POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **9.1 INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY TEAM REPORT**

*Presented by Policy Team Chair, Cr Stephen Strange*

**NOTED**

*Cr Karen Wheatland left the meeting at 5:02pm and did not return.*

### **9.2 PEOPLE AND PLACE POLICY TEAM REPORT**

*Presented by Policy Team Chair, President Cr Phillip Blight*

**NOTED**

*Cr Haeden Miles left the meeting at 5:10pm and did not return.*

### **9.3 GOVERNANCE POLICY TEAM REPORT**

*Presented by Policy Team Chair, Mayor Patrick Hall*

**NOTED**

*Mayor Logan Howlett left the meeting at 5:13pm and did not return.*

### **9.4 ENVIRONMENT POLICY TEAM REPORT**

*Presented by Policy Team Chair, Cr Les Price*

**NOTED**

### **9.5 MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL (MWAC) REPORT**

*Presented by Chair, Cr Karen Wheatland*

**NOTED**



## **10 MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION**

### **10.1 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDIT EXPERIENCE SURVEY RESULTS**

*By Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance*

**NOTED**

### **10.2 RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND ENGAGEMENT GUIDE**

*By Lisa Harwood, Principal Policy Advisor Economic Development*

**NOTED**

### **10.3 REPORT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT ROAD ASSETS AND EXPENDITURE 2023/24**

*By Mark Bondietti, Policy Manager Transport and Roads*

**NOTED**

### **10.4 WALGA BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT ROUNDTABLE**

*By Sam Kennedy, Senior Policy Advisor - Emergency Management*

**NOTED**

### **10.5 STATE BUDGET UPDATE**

*By Daniel Thomson, Manager Economics*

**NOTED**

## **11 ORGANISATION REPORTS**

### **11.1 KEY ACTIVITY REPORTS**

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

*By Rachel Horton, Executive Manager Advocacy*

**NOTED**

#### **11.1.2 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO**

*By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure*

**NOTED**

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

*By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services*

**FOR NOTING**

#### **11.1.4 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, POLICY PORTFOLIO**

*By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager, Policy*

**NOTED**

### **11.2 PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**NOTED**

### **11.3 CEO'S REPORT**

**NOTED**

## 12 ADDITIONAL ZONE RESOLUTIONS

### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**Moved:** Cr Paul Kelly  
**Seconded:** President Cr Phillip Blight

**That the additional Zone Resolutions from the June round of Zones meetings as follows be referred to the appropriate portfolio for consideration and appropriate action.**

**RESOLUTION 047.3/2025**

**CARRIED**

### **CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE (Infrastructure Portfolio)**

#### **Concerns Regarding the Delays in Electrical Connections by Western Power – Impact on Regional Development in Brookton**

That the Central Country Zone request State Council to:

1. Engage with Western Power to review and improve timelines for electrical connections, particularly in regional areas;
2. Prioritise connections for essential infrastructure, residential housing, and commercial investment projects; and
3. Consider additional resourcing or regional service delivery strategies to ensure timely support for regional development.

### **CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE (Policy Portfolio)**

#### **Polyphagous shot-hole borer**

That the Central Country Zone request WALGA to:

1. Call on the State Government to appropriately fund the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development given that the 2025-26 State Budget shows that investment in the Department will drop by \$166m in 2026-27 (35%) and be lower than the investment in 2023-24 which was insufficient to respond to the Polyphagous Shot-hole Borer.
2. Noting; The 2025-26 budget provides just \$50,000 for 'Biosecurity Incident and Emergency Management Response' grants in 2026-27 and no funding in the further out-years.

### **EAST METROPOLITAN ZONE (Policy, Member Services and Infrastructure Portfolios)**

#### **Advocacy for Improved Action and Communication from State Government Agencies**

That the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) East Metropolitan Zone requests that WALGA prioritise their advocacy to the State Government for the following:

1. Improved management and decisive action from the Department of Communities and the Department of Housing in dealing with problem tenancies within their social and community housing properties, including greater support and wrap around services to assist those vulnerable members of the community.
2. Improved communications between the Department of Communities, the Department of Housing and Local Government Authorities when dealing with issues that arise from social and community housing properties.
3. The development of a fair formula to ensure the State Government and its agencies continue to pay rates on all State-owned or State-agency owned land used for social and community housing purposes across the State, regardless of who develops,

operates, or is granted use of the land, including not for profits and charitable organisations.

4. Increased funding for underground power and expedite the rollout of the LED replacement programme across the State, particularly in low socio-economic areas.

#### **GASCOYNE COUNTRY ZONE (Policy Portfolio)**

##### **Waste Management Funding Advocacy**

That the Gascoyne Country Zone:

1. Request WALGA to advocate for funding and support for regional collaboration on waste management; and
2. Seek WALGA's advice and assistance in identifying funding opportunities and facilitating independent coordination to support regional waste initiatives.

#### **NORTH METROPOLITAN ZONE (Policy Portfolio)**

##### **'Place' Advocacy – Seeking Increased Consideration of 'Sense of Place' through the Planning and Development Process**

That the North Metropolitan Zone requests the Western Australian Local Government Association advocate to the State Government for increased consideration of sense of place and place-based outcomes through the planning and development system.

#### **PEEL COUNTRY ZONE (Policy Portfolio)**

##### **Places of Bushfire Last Resort**

That the Peel Country Zone:

1. supports the development of draft guidelines for Places of Bushfire Last Resort by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services; and
2. requests WALGA's active engagement to identify and address risks associated with Places of Bushfire Last Resort, engage and lead local government consideration and assist the development of a solution for local governments across Western Australia.

#### **SOUTH EAST METROPOLITAN ZONE (Policy Portfolio)**

##### **Bushfire Risk Management on Crown Land**

That WALGA adopts the following Advocacy Position:

1. The Crown should be bound by the *Bush Fires Act 1954* and any new consolidated emergency services legislation.
2. Regardless of whether the Crown is bound by legislation, Government agencies should be directed and resourced to proactively manage bush fire risk on Crown land, particularly where that land is located in close proximity to residential developments.

#### **SOUTH WEST COUNTRY ZONE (Infrastructure Portfolio)**

##### **Advocacy for Improved Telecommunications and Internet Coverage in the South West Region**

That the South West Zone requests the State Council to advocate for tangible actions to improve telecommunication and internet coverage throughout the South West to meet current and future demands, taking into account:

- forecast population increases
- planning for future development
- increasing community reliance on digital capabilities for everyday life (residents and businesses)
- seasonal tourism swells
- increasing emergency service response and management requirements
- the need to enable transformational business and industry to evolve and thrive in the regions.

- engagement with relevant State and Federal Governments to identify the appropriate governing or regulatory body responsible for overseeing telecommunications providers in emergency management contexts and supporting, through Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMC) membership where the local government deems necessary, their regular and meaningful participation in LEMCs.

### **13      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next ordinary meeting of the WALGA State Council will be a Regional Meeting, hosted by the Goldfields Esperance Country Zone in the Shire of Dundas, on Friday, 5 September commencing at 11:00am.

### **14      CLOSURE**

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 5:30pm.