

# State Council

## Agenda

13 September 2023

---

## NOTICE OF MEETING

Ordinary meeting no. 4 of 2023 of the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) State Council to be a Regional meeting hosted by the Great Southern Country Zone in the Pioneer Room at the Shire of Katanning Leisure Centre, Katanning on Wednesday, 13 September 2023.

### 1. ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

#### 1.1 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 Gascoyne Country Zone Goldfields Esperance Country Zone Great Eastern Country Zone Great Southern 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 JP Cr Paul Kelly  Cr Ken Seymour President Cr Phillip Blight Cr Helen Sadler Cr John Daw President Cr Eddie Smith ( <b>Deputy</b> ) President Cr Laurene Bonza President Cr Stephen Strange President Cr Chris Pavlovich Cr Chris Mitchell JP Cr Les Price Cr Frank Cvitan JP Cr Russ Fishwick JP Cr Felicity Farrelly ( <b>Deputy</b> ) President Cr Moira Girando President Cr Michelle Rich Mayor Peter Long Mayor Patrick Hall Mayor Ruth Butterfield Mayor Deb Hamblin ( <b>Deputy</b> ) Mayor Carol Adams OAM Mayor Logan Howlett JP President Cr Tony Dean
<b>Ex Officio</b>	Local Government Professionals WA President	Ms Annie Riordan
<b>Secretariat</b>	Chief Executive Officer Executive Director Member Services Executive Manager Infrastructure Executive Manager Policy Executive Officer Governance	Mr Nick Sloan Mr Tony Brown Mr Ian Duncan Ms Nicole Matthews Ms Kathy Robertson

#### 1.2 Apologies

The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor – City of Perth State Councillor, East Metropolitan Zone State Councillor, Gascoyne Country Zone State Councillor, North Metropolitan Zone State Councillor, South Metropolitan Zone Deputy State Councillor, East Metropolitan Zone Deputy State Councillor, East Metropolitan Zone WALGA Executive Manager Advocacy	Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas Cr Catherine Ehrhardt President Cr Cheryl Cowell Cr David Lagan Cr Doug Thompson Cr Paige McNeil Cr Aaron Bowman Ms Narelle Cant
--	---

## 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 5 July 2023

---

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the WALGA State Council meeting held on [Wednesday, 5 July](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

#### 4.1.1 Business arising from the Minutes of the State Council meeting held 5 July 2023

---

### 4.2 Flying Minute – Consistent Local Planning Schemes Planning Reform

---

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the [Flying Minute - Consistent Local Planning Schemes Planning Reform](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

#### 4.2.1 Business arising from the Flying Minute – Consistent Local Planning Schemes Planning Reform

---

### 4.3 Flying Minute – Submission on the Draft State Waste Infrastructure Plan

---

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the [Flying Minute - Submission on the Draft State Waste Infrastructure Plan](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

#### 4.3.1 Business arising from the Flying Minute – Submission on the Draft State Waste Infrastructure Plan

---

### 4.4 Flying Minute – Submission on State Waste Strategy Directions Paper

---

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the [Flying Minute - Submission on State Waste Strategy Directions Paper](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

#### 4.4.1 Business arising from the Flying Minute – Submission on State Waste Strategy Directions Paper

---

#### **4.5 Flying Minute – *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* Review Stage 3 Submission**

---

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the [Flying Minute - Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 Review Stage 3 Submission](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

##### **4.5.1 Business arising from the Flying Minute – *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* Review Stage 3 Submission**

---

#### **4.6 Flying Minute – Independent Strategic Review of the Infrastructure Investment Program Submission**

---

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the [Flying Minute - Independent Strategic Review of the Infrastructure Investment Program Submission](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

##### **4.6.1 Business arising from the Flying Minute – Independent Strategic Review of the Infrastructure Investment Program Submission**

---

#### **4.7 Flying Minute – Discussion Paper, Wired for Change: Regulation for small electrical products and solar photovoltaic system waste submission**

---

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the [Flying Minute – Discussion Paper, Wired for Change: Regulation for small electrical products and solar photovoltaic system waste submission](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

##### **4.7.1 Business arising from the Flying Minute – Discussion Paper, Wired for Change: Regulation for small electrical products and solar photovoltaic system waste submission**

---

#### **4.8 Flying Minute – Submission to the Review of the Main Roads Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Guidelines**

---

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the [Flying Minute – Submission to the Review of the Main Roads Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Guidelines](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

##### **4.8.1 Business arising from the Flying Minute – Submission to the Review of the Main Roads Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Guidelines**

#### **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. EMERGING ISSUES**

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

## **7. MATTERS FOR DECISION**

- As per matters listed
- Items Under Separate Cover to State Council only

## **8. POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

## **9. MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION**

- As per matters listed

## **10. ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS**

### 10.1 Key Activity Reports

- 10.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio
- 10.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio
- 10.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio
- 10.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio

### 10.2 President's Report

### 10.3 CEO's Report

### 10.4 Ex Officio Reports

- 10.4.1 The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas is an apology for this meeting.
- 10.4.2 LG Professionals President, Annie Riordan, will provide the LG Professionals Report to the meeting.

## **11. ADDITIONAL ZONE RESOLUTIONS**

To be advised following Zone meetings.

## **12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next ordinary meeting of the WALGA State Council will be held in the Boardroom at WALGA, ONE70, LV1, 170 Railway Parade, West Leederville on Wednesday, 6 December commencing at 4:15pm.

## **13. CLOSURE**

## Table of Contents

<b>7. MATTERS FOR DECISION .....</b>	<b>6</b>
7.1 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Advocacy Position.....	6
7.2 Advocacy Position on Road Works during Total Fire Ban .....	9
<b>8. POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS.....</b>	<b>11</b>
8.1 Environment and Waste Policy Team Report.....	11
8.2 Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team Report.....	12
8.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report .....	13
8.4 People and Place Policy Team Report.....	14
8.5 Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report.....	15
<b>9. MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION.....</b>	<b>18</b>
9.1 Flying Minute – Consistent Local Planning Schemes.....	18
9.2 Flying Minute – Submission on the Draft State Waste Infrastructure Plan.....	21
9.3 Flying Minute – Submission on Directions Paper: <i>Review of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2023</i> .....	23
9.4 Flying Minute – Submission on Discussion Paper: Stage 3 <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i> Review .....	25
9.5 Flying Minute – Independent Strategic Review of the Infrastructure Investment Program Submission.....	27
9.6 Flying Minute – Submission on Discussion Paper – Wired for Change: regulation for small electrical products and solar photovoltaic system waste .....	29
9.7 Flying Minute – Submission to the Review of the Main Roads Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Guidelines.....	31
9.8 Concurrent Commonwealth Disaster Reviews .....	35
<b>10. ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS.....</b>	<b>37</b>
10.1 Key Activity Reports.....	37
10.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio .....	37
10.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio.....	40
10.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio.....	44
10.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio.....	49
<b>STATUS REPORT ON STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS.....</b>	<b>51</b>

## 7. MATTERS FOR DECISION

### 7.1 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Advocacy Position

By Simone Ruane, LEMA Review Project Lead

#### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA endorse the following position on Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA):

1. ***The State Government should fund the implementation of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Plan endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC).***
2. ***A reformed LEMA system should:***
  - a) ***Clearly articulate the roles and responsibilities of Local Governments in emergency management;***
  - b) ***Simplify the reporting processes and reduce the administrative burden of maintaining compliance;***
  - c) ***Provide a suite of scalable tools and guidance materials that are accessible through an online knowledge hub;***
  - d) ***Build the emergency management capacity and capability of Local Governments through the provision of targeted training, exercising support, human resources and sustainable funding;***
  - e) ***Assist Local Governments to continue to deliver their core business activities and provide public information during an emergency event;***
  - f) ***Improve the connectivity of Local Governments' various risk management and hazard planning processes through an integrated approach; and***
  - g) ***Enable resource sharing and collaboration across the Local Government sector.***

#### Executive Summary

- WALGA recommends that State Council endorse a new emergency management advocacy position requesting the State Government to fund the implementation of the LEMA Improvement Plan endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC).
- A LEMA advocacy position will enable WALGA to advocate for reforms to LEMA processes, obligations and resourcing that will better meet the needs of the sector and build the resilience of local communities.
- The proposed position is informed by extensive consultation with the Local Government sector in 2022 through WALGA's LEMA Review Project.
- 100 Western Australian Local Governments contributed to the LEMA Review consultation, representing 72% of the sector.

#### Attachment

- [WALGA LEMA Review Consultation Project Summary and Recommendations Report](#)

#### Policy Implications

This new position is consistent with, and complements, the existing [Emergency Management Advocacy Positions 8.1 – 8.10](#).

#### Background

Under the *Emergency Management Act 2005*, all Local Governments are required to have Local Emergency Management Arrangement (LEMAs). LEMA refers to the collection of all the emergency management documentation, systems, processes, agreements and memorandums of understanding



which affect the Local Government. LEMA are outlined in an overarching LEMA document and associated emergency management sub-plans which the Local Government is responsible for developing, maintaining and testing.

In 2019, the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) identified that there were an increasing number of Local Governments with LEMA overdue for review.

In response to this finding, WALGA submitted a paper to SEMC outlining the key challenges for Local Governments in fulfilling their LEMA obligations including:

- lack of clarity around the roles and responsibilities of Local Government in emergency management;
- lack of ongoing funding and human resources needed to meet Local Government emergency management requirements; and
- misalignment between Local Government emergency management requirements and the Integrated Planning and Reporting Frameworks for Local Government.

SEMC approved WALGA's recommendation to review current LEMA processes using a sector-led approach. In 2021, WALGA was allocated \$140,040 in *All West Australians Reducing Emergencies* (AWARE) grant program funding to lead a consultation with Local Government for the LEMA Review.

From April to December 2022, WALGA engaged with the Local Government sector to identify LEMA strengths, weaknesses, and improvement opportunities in a consultation process that included 10 in-depth interviews, 10 interactive workshops and an online survey. 100 Western Australian Local Governments contributed to the LEMA Review consultation, representing 72% of the sector.

[WALGA's consultation with Local Government](#) confirmed that LEMA system reforms are required to empower Local Governments to prepare for and recover from hazards that are likely to impact their communities and business operations now and into the future. An improved LEMA system should:

- Clearly articulate the roles and responsibilities of Local Governments in emergency management;
- Simplify the reporting processes and reduce the administrative burden of maintaining compliance;
- Provide a suite of scalable tools and guidance co-designed with the Local Government sector that are accessible through an online knowledge hub;
- Build the emergency management capacity and capability of Local Governments through the provision of targeted training, exercising support, human resources and sustainable funding;
- Assist Local Governments to continue to deliver their core business activities and provide public information during an emergency event;
- Improve the connectivity of Local Governments' various risk management and hazard planning processes through an integrated approach; and
- Enable resource sharing and collaboration across the Local Government sector.

In early 2023, DFES developed a draft LEMA Improvement Plan that was informed by WALGA's [LEMA Review consultation outcomes and recommendations](#). WALGA tested the LEMA Improvement Plan and confirmed that the Local Government sector is highly supportive of proposed implementation actions to:

- Streamline and customise LEMA templates;
- Develop a Local Government Emergency Management Policy;
- Review grant processes and resource/funding models;
- Scope and develop a LEMA Online Knowledge Hub;
- Embed a LEMA maturity assessment/evaluation into the process; and
- Conduct a training gap analysis, with outcomes to inform the development of LEMA training.

The final LEMA Improvement Plan was endorsed by SEMC on 2 August 2023, noting that funding for implementation is not yet confirmed and further work is required to identify full implementation and ongoing resource costs.



Local Governments are concerned about the absence of funding to implement the LEMA Improvement Plan actions and the reliance on securing grant funding to deliver these. If the State Government does not allocate or secure funding to implement the LEMA Improvement activities, the issues with LEMA currency and effectiveness will persist and Local Governments may disengage from State level EM project consultations and reform processes. Moreover, failing to reform the LEMA system will result in Western Australian communities being unprepared for the more frequent and extreme emergency events they face as a result of climate change.

### **Comment**

The LEMA Review provided a unique opportunity for Local Governments to actively inform State EM policy and procedure reform for emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery at the local level.

The proposed WALGA LEMA Improvement Advocacy Position is informed by an extensive and multi-method consultation with Local Governments and reflects the sentiment of all 100 Local Governments who contributed to the LEMA Review.

A LEMA Improvement Advocacy Position will enable WALGA to advocate for reforms to LEMA processes, obligations and resourcing that will better meet the needs of the sector and build the resilience of local communities.

The People and Place Policy Team endorsed the new Advocacy Position at its meeting on Wednesday, 9 August for consideration by the Zones and State Council.

## 7.2 Advocacy Position on Road Works during Total Fire Ban

By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure

### RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA endorse the following principles in relation to the exemptions and conditions under which road works may be undertaken during a Total Fire Ban:

1. **Road Activity Tiers:** That there be a tiered risk approach for road work activities and associated controls, based on the proposed activities and fire danger forecast.
2. **Local Government operations:** That any controls specified in regulations to provide effective risk mitigation and response be able to be implemented within the works crew deployed for the task.
3. **Reduce Red Tape:** That the processes where repeated notification to DFES for the same task at the same location is required be streamlined.

### Executive Summary

- The issue of restrictions on carrying out any grading or bitumen works during a Total Fire Ban has been raised by Local Governments.
- A Total Fire Ban is declared on days when fires are most likely to threaten lives and property.
- During a Total Fire Ban, road works can be undertaken only under certain conditions as set out in the [Bush Fires Regulations 1954](#).
- With the frequency of TFBs being declared in Western Australia increasing in recent years, road maintenance and improvement projects have been delayed, increasing the risk to road users.
- Based on consultation with Local Governments, three key principles are proposed to evaluate the effectiveness of the Regulations to manage risk of bushfire, and to enable low risk activities to proceed with appropriate controls.

### Policy Implications

There is currently no [Advocacy Position](#) relating to road works undertaken during a Total Fire Ban.

### Background

The issue of restrictions on carrying out any grading or bitumen works during a Total Fire Ban has been raised by Local Governments.

A Total Fire Ban (TFB) is declared on days when fires are most likely to threaten lives and property. This is because of predicted extreme fire weather or when there are already widespread fires and firefighting resources are stretched. Road works can be undertaken during TFB subject to complying with the conditions set out in the [Bush Fires Regulations 1954](#).

This issue has been raised by the Great Eastern Country Zone, Northern Country Zone and South West Country Zone.

### Comment

Some of the provisions in the regulations seem disproportionate in comparison to those imposed on harvesting that may be occurring in adjacent paddocks and are impractical for minor maintenance activities such as routine grading. Changes to the Australian Fire Danger Rating System, and Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) policies concerning the conditions under which a TFB is declared has resulted in a much higher frequency of TFBs in many parts of Western Australia. As a result, road maintenance and improvement projects have been delayed which increases the risks to road users.

Based on consultation with Local Governments, the following principles are proposed to be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the Regulations to manage the risk of bushfire and enable low risk activities to proceed with appropriate controls:

- Road Activity Tiers: That there be a tiered risk approach for road work activities and associated controls, based on the proposed activities and fire danger forecast.
- Local Government operations: That any controls specified in regulations to provide effective risk mitigation and response be able to be implemented within the works crew deployed for the task.
- Reduce Red Tape: That the processes where repeated notification to DFES for the same task at the same location is required be streamlined.

## 8. POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 8.1 Environment and Waste Policy Team Report

*By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy*

#### RECOMMENDATION

**That State Council note the matters considered by the Environment and Waste Policy Team at its meeting held on 5 July 2023.**

*The Environment and Waste Policy Team includes the following subject areas:*

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

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the Environment and Waste Policy Team at its meeting held on Wednesday, 5 July.

#### 1. Matters for State Council Decision

The Policy Team considered and endorsed the Submission on Stage 3 of the Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act Review (see [Agenda item 9.4](#)).

#### 2. Matters Referred by Zones

The Avon-Midland Country Zone requested that WALGA continue to advocate for specific changes to the native vegetation clearing permit system for clearing within existing road reserves. The Policy Team acknowledged the comprehensive information provided by the Zone, the concerns raised and request from the Zone, and confirmed that WALGA will continue to advocate, and develop solutions, regarding these issues.

The South West Country Zone requested that WALGA advocate to the Minister for Environment; Climate Action for the reinstatement of the Regional Climate Alliance Program. The Policy Team noted the Zone resolution and that WALGA will continue to advocate for the continuation and expansion of the Regional Climate Alliance Program.

The WALGA President wrote to the Minister for Environment and Climate Action, Hon Reece Whitby on 28 June 2023 to urge him to consider the results of the evaluation and funding for the Program as a priority.

#### 3. Updates Provided

**ARENA EV charger funding:** WALGA presented the EOI to the ARENA Panel in early June and was successful in moving onto the next stage of the process, the development of a full project proposal. WALGA are currently working to address the issues identified by the ARENA Panel and anticipate the Submission of the full project proposal in July/August.

**Integrated Weed Management Promotion:** Over the next month, WALGA will be launching a series of videos showcasing Local Governments approaches to integrated weed management.

## 8.2 Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team Report

*By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services*

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council note the Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team Report.**

*The Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team includes the following subject areas:*

- *Employee Relations*
- *Governance*
- *Strategy and Association Governance*
- *Training*
- *Regional Capacity Building / Local Government Reform*

The Governance and Organisational Services (GOS) Policy Team have not had a meeting since the last State Council meeting on 5 July.

A meeting of the GOS Policy Team is scheduled for Thursday, 31 August.

A Report providing an update on matters considered at that meeting will be included in the next State Council Agenda.

Policy Team Chair, Cr Russ Fishwick, will provide a verbal report at the State Council meeting.

## 8.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report

*By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure*

### RECOMMENDATION

**That State Council note the matters considered by the Infrastructure Policy Team at its meetings held on 5 July, 28 July and 9 August 2023.**

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

- *Roads and paths*
- *Road safety*
- *Transport*
- *Freight*
- *Utilities (including telecommunications and underground power)*

This Report provides an update on matters considered since the last State Council meeting by the Infrastructure Policy Team at its meetings held on 5 July, 28 July and joint meeting with the People and Place Policy Team on 9 August.

### 1. Matters for State Council Decision

#### Road Works during Total Fire Bans

Road works can be undertaken during Total Fire Bans subject to complying with the conditions set out in the Bush Fires Regulations 1954. Based on consultation with Local Governments, the following principles are proposed to be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the regulations to manage the risk of bushfire and enable low risk activities to proceed with appropriate controls (see [Agenda item 7.2](#)):

1. Road Activity Tiers
2. Local Government operations
3. Reduce Red Tape

### 2. Matters for State Council Noting

The Infrastructure Policy Team met and considered the following matters that have been endorsed by State Council by way of Flying Agenda:

1. Submission to the Strategic Review of Commonwealth Infrastructure Investment Program
2. Proposed changes to the Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Guidelines, used by Main Roads when assessing the needs of pedestrians.

The Joint Infrastructure and People and Place Policy Teams meeting on 9 August considered a draft submission to the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding and following discussion resolved that the submission be considered by State Council by Flying Agenda.

The Policy Team also considered matters in relation to line marking on roads and resolved to seek the development of a formal advocacy position for consideration at a future State Council meeting.

## 8.4 People and Place Policy Team Report

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy

### RECOMMENDATION

**That State Council note the matters considered by the People and Place Policy Team at its meetings held on 5 July and 9 August 2023.**

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

- Community
- Emergency Management
- Planning and Building

This Report provides an update on matters considered by the People and Place Policy Team at its meeting held on 5 July and its joint meeting with the Infrastructure Policy Team on 9 August.

### 1. Matters for State Council Decision

Nil

### 2. Matters for State Council Noting

At the meeting on 5 July, the People and Place Policy Team received briefings on:

- the State Council Agenda for the 5 July meeting; and
- the release of draft Operational Policy Planning for Public Open Space by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage for comment until 25 August; and
- the commencement of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021*.

At the meeting on 9 August, the People and Place Policy Team:

- jointly with the Infrastructure Policy Team, endorsed a draft submission on the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding to be provided to State Council by Flying Agenda;
- endorsed the submission of Draft Operational Policy 2.3 Planning for Public Open Space to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage; and
- endorsed the following advocacy position on Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement (see [Agenda item 7.1](#)):

1. *The State Government should fund the implementation of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Plan endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC).*
2. *A reformed LEMA system should:*
  - a) *Clearly articulate the roles and responsibilities of Local Governments in emergency management;*
  - b) *Simplify the reporting processes and reduce the administrative burden of maintaining compliance;*
  - c) *Provide a suite of scalable tools and guidance materials that are accessible through an online knowledge hub;*
  - d) *Build the emergency management capacity and capability of Local Governments through the provision of targeted training, exercising support, human resources and sustainable funding;*
  - e) *Assist Local Governments to continue to deliver their core business activities and provide public information during an emergency event;*
  - f) *Improve the connectivity of Local Governments' various risk management and hazard planning processes through an integrated approach; and*
  - g) *Enable resource sharing and collaboration across the Local Government sector.*



## 8.5 Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report

By Rebecca Brown, Manager and Recycling

### RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

1. rescind Advocacy Position 7.5 Waste Management Data Collection and accompanying Policy Statement; and
2. note the resolutions of the 28 June 2023 Municipal Waste Advisory Council Meeting.

### Executive Summary

- This item summaries the proceedings of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) meeting held on Wednesday, 28 June.
- Copies of MWAC Agendas and Minutes are available from WALGA staff on request.

### 1. Matters for Decision

#### Data and Information Policy Statement

ALGA Advocacy Position [7.5 Waste Management Data Collection](#) and [Waste Management Data and Information Management Policy Statement](#) were endorsed in 2010 and were used to advocate regarding Local Government reporting requirements as the State Government developed their voluntary data reporting requirements and for funding for Local Government to undertake data collection.

While the principles and approach to data collection in the advocacy position and policy statement are still valid, data provision by Local Government is now standard, and required under regulation. It was therefore agreed that MWAC recommend this Policy Statement and associated Advocacy Position and be rescinded.

#### WALGA Advocacy Position [7.5 Waste Management Data Collection](#)

*Local Government asserts that the State and Federal Governments have a role in compiling and publishing waste management data centrally, as well as providing support to Local Governments in collecting data.*

#### Background

*Local Government acknowledges the importance of using consistent data as a tool to make evidence-based decisions. However, there are constraints for Local Governments in collecting waste data in terms of capacity and data availability, which has meant that accurate waste management data is not always readily available. WALGA developed the Data and Information Management Policy Statement to assist the sector in identifying when data should be collected and various uses. The Policy Statement was also used by WALGA in contributing to the development of the Department of Environment and Conservation's waste data collection program, which aims to assist Local Governments in meeting their reporting responsibilities.*

State Council Resolution June 2010 – 61.3/2010

#### Supporting Documents

[Waste Management Data and Information Management Policy Statement](#)

*Background Paper: Policy Statement on Waste Management Data and Information Management (2010)*

### **MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MOTION**

That the Municipal Waste Advisory Council rescind the *Waste Management Data and Information Management Policy Statement*.

**Moved: Cr Thompson**

**Seconded: Mayor Vernon**

**CARRIED**

### **Submission on the State Waste Strategy Directions Paper**

The State Government has released a *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030* (Waste Strategy) [Directions Paper](#), as the first stage of consultation on the Strategy Review. Feedback on the Directions Paper will inform an updated Draft Waste Strategy, which will be released for consultation in late 2023 for a minimum of 12 weeks. A draft Submission on the Directions Paper was developed and distributed to Local Government for feedback.

The Submission identifies the focus areas for the updated Waste Strategy including:

- Focus on waste avoidance, through evidence-based programs for priority waste streams such as food waste, plastics and textiles.
- Engagement and opportunities for the Commercial & Industrial sector to reduce waste and increase material and resource recovery.
- Influencing the development of effective Product Stewardship Schemes at national level, for priority materials including electronic waste, packaging and tyres.
- Coordination and focus for regional and remote areas to assist with developing regional solutions to increase resource recovery and reduce waste.

### **MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MOTION**

That the Municipal Waste Advisory Council, and Environment Policy Team, endorse the Submission on the *Review of Western Australia's Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 Directions Paper*.

**Moved: Cr Price**

**Seconded: Cr Wheatland**

**CARRIED**

### **Soft Plastics Advocacy**

WALGA, with the other Local Government Associations, is advocating nationally against the proposed inclusion of soft plastics in kerbside recycling collections (by the Australian Food and Grocery Council). The approach being proposed has the potential to undermine effective community education about what should be placed in the recycling bin and shifts costs onto Local Government and away from manufacturers. MWAC agreed to writing to the Federal and State Environment Ministers, as part of this advocacy, and to support other correspondence sent by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and other Local Government Associations.

### **MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MOTION**

That the Municipal Waste Advisory Council endorse sending correspondence to the State and Federal Environment Ministers:

- Calling for effective product stewardship for soft plastics.
- Identifying Local Government opposition to collection of soft plastics through the kerbside system.

**Moved: Mayor Vernon**

**Seconded: Cr Wheatland**

**CARRIED**

## 2. Matters for Discussion

MWAC discussed the following matters:

- **Waste Levy Rate Increase and Schedule:** The Council discussed the differences between the capacity of larger metropolitan Local Governments and small regional Local Governments to collect the Levy. Illegal dumping in peri-urban areas is a significant issue and it was considered that an extension of the Levy was only likely to exacerbate the issue. The focus for advocacy was discussed, including seeking full hypothecation for the Levy, expenditure on positive actions for example FOGO infrastructure funding and the implications of State Government relying on an environmental levy which will decrease over time. MWAC requested the WALGA write to the Environment Minister regarding the Levy.
- **Product Stewardship for Electrical and Electronic Waste:** MWAC identified the key elements to include in the Submission to the Federal Government Discussion Paper *Wired for Change: Regulation for small electrical products and solar photovoltaic systems waste*. This included State Government plans to progress a ban on e-waste to landfill by 2024. Local Governments were also encouraged to comment on the Discussion Paper.
- **Household Hazardous Waste Program:** A new 5-year funding agreement has been finalised for the HHW Program, starting from 1 July 2023. WALGA has extend the contract with the current service provider, Cleanaway, for 6 months to ensure sufficient time for the tender process for the new Program.
- **Waste Education Resourcing:** A short survey on resourcing for waste education was distributed to 34 metropolitan Local Governments and Regional Councils. Complete and partial responses were received from 11 Local Governments and 3 Regional Councils. Results included:
  - 10 Local Governments indicated that waste education was provided internally. 7 of these respondents noted one full-time equivalent (FTE) officer allocated to waste education. The remaining three respondents noted at least two FTE officers.
  - One Local Government specified that waste education was provided by their Regional Council. One Local Government specified that in addition to waste education being provided internally, their waste contractor also delivers waste education in schools.
  - Two Regional Councils each indicated at least four FTE officers allocated to waste education.
  - In the 2022-23 financial year, Local Government/Regional Council waste education budgets ranged from \$15,000 to \$300,000.
- **5th Review of the Container Deposit Scheme Minimum Network Standards:** MWAC received notification that the 5th review of the Minimum Network Standards is currently underway, with feedback due 21 July 2023. The review proposes to increase the number of Refund Points for towns of greater than 500 people. The proposal will result in an additional 11 Refund Points state-wide. This is aligned with WALGA's previous advocacy and submissions to increase the number of Refund Points. Rather than make a formal submission it was agreed that the MWAC Chair would send a letter supporting the proposal to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.

## 9. MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

### 9.1 Flying Minute – Consistent Local Planning Schemes

By Coralie Claudio, Senior Policy Advisor Planning

#### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the submission on Consistent Local Planning Schemes to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and updated advocacy position (6.2 Planning Reform), as endorsed via Flying Minute.

#### Executive Summary

- The Consistent Local Planning Scheme reform project released by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) responds to the State Government's Action Plan for Planning Reform (Action Plan) aimed at making local planning schemes more consistent and legible and improving associated guidance.
- Proposals involve changes to land use terms (and associated definitions); zones and reserves (and associated objectives) for all local planning schemes; and land use permissibility and development requirements for commercial and industrial type zones in the Metropolitan and Peel region schemes.
- WALGA's submission generally supports greater consistency in local planning schemes as proposed but raises several concerns about the ongoing and incremental erosion of Local Government control over their own schemes that can be seen as imposing standardisation beyond what is reasonable.
- WALGA Advocacy Position 6.2 *Planning Reform* was revised to include specific reference to ensuring Local Government retains the ability to respond to local context and characteristics through Local Planning Frameworks.
- State Council endorsed the submission and amended Advocacy Position via Flying Minute on 8 June 2023.

#### Attachment

- [DPLH's Stakeholder Consultation Report](#)
- [WALGA submission on Consistent Local Planning Schemes including DPLH Submission Form](#)

#### Policy Implications

WALGA's submission is consistent with the following WALGA Advocacy Positions:

##### 6.1 Planning Principles

*All legislation and policy that deals with planning and development must:*

- *ensure role clarity and consistency across all legislation controlling development, to avoid confusion of powers and responsibilities*
- *be easily interpreted by, understood by, and accessible to all sections of the community, and*
- *be amended only with WALGA involvement and/or consultation/involvement with Local Government.*

##### 6.7 Local Government Fees and Charges

*Position statement: Local Government should achieve substantial cost recovery/fee for service in the delivery of its planning services; and any change to the fee structure should be carried out in consultation with the entire Local Government sector.*

### 6.17 Special Residential Zones

*Position Statement: Local Government supports the removal of future Special Residential Zones, however, supports the protection of existing Special Residential Zones*

The following Advocacy Position was amended in response to matters raised in the submission:

### 6.2 Planning Reform

*The Local Government sector supports the underlying principles of planning reform and the continuing focus of streamlining the planning system.*

Amended Advocacy Position 6.2 Planning Reform:

*The Local Government sector supports the underlying principles of planning reform and the continuing focus of streamlining the planning system while ensuring Local Government retains the ability to respond to local context and characteristics through Local Planning Frameworks.*

## Background

The [Action Plan for Planning Reform](#) was initiated as a result of the Independent Reviewer's Green Paper (2018). The Action Plan details reforms across three key themes: planning creates great places for people; planning is easier to understand and navigate; and planning systems are consistent and efficient.

More consistent local planning schemes were identified as an initiative in the Action Plan with the specific outcome of *a standardised approach to zones, land use, permissibility and development control to increase consistency, while retaining the ability for Local Governments and their communities to respond to local circumstances, such as heritage and character.*

The Consistent Local Planning Scheme reform project proposes various changes to land use terms (and definitions), zones and reserves (and associated objectives). A standardised zoning table, outlining land use permissibility, and an approach for development requirements within commercial and industrial type zones in the Perth and Peel regions is also proposed. Investigation and implementation of Industrial design codes (similar to R-Codes) and a deemed local planning scheme also forms part of the longer-term actions.

These changes are proposed to be introduced through future amendment to both Model Provisions and Deemed Provisions for Local Planning Schemes within the Local Planning Scheme Regulations 2015 and through guidance documents. Actions are proposed to be implemented in two stages with short to medium term actions (1-3 years) and longer-term actions (3+ years) identified. DPLH has advised it is consulting on principles only at this stage and further consultation will occur when guidance documents and regulatory amendments have been drafted.

## Comment

### Submission

WALGA's Advocacy Position 6.2 Planning Reform supports the underlying principle of planning reform and the streamlining of the planning system. WALGA generally supports the Consistent Local Planning Schemes project, however greater consistency in local planning schemes should not be at the expense of local context and achieving good planning outcomes. Some of the identified actions will have the effect of incrementally eroding Local Government's control over their own schemes and can be seen as taking standardisation and centralisation of local planning frameworks too far to the detriment of Local Governments and their communities, and beyond what was envisaged in the *Action Plan for Planning Reform*.

Advocacy Position 6.2 Planning Reform

In response to concerns regarding the erosion of Local Government planning controls, Advocacy Position 6.2 Planning Reform was amended to make clear that while WALGA supports planning reform and the focus on streamlining the planning system, Local Government must retain the ability to respond to local context and characteristics through Local Planning Frameworks. This revised position will also assist in the Association in responding to future reform projects including the 2023 tranche of planning reform actions recently announced by the State Government.

The public comment period closed on Friday, 26 May 2023, with an extension granted to the Association to provide its comment by Friday, 9 June 2023. The People and Place Policy Team endorsed the draft submission and amended advocacy position on 31 May 2023. State Council endorsed the submission and amended advocacy position via Flying Minute on the 8 June 2023.



## 9.2 Flying Minute – Submission on the Draft State Waste Infrastructure Plan

By Rebecca Brown, Manager, Waste and Environment

### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the Submission on the Draft Western Australian State Waste Infrastructure Plan, as endorsed via Flying Minute.

### Executive Summary

- The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation released the draft [Western Australia State Waste Infrastructure Plan](#) for comment by 23 June 2023.
- The draft Plan was developed to guide decision making for the planning and development of waste infrastructure in Western Australia and focuses on the built waste and recycling infrastructure needed to achieve 2030 State Waste Strategy targets.
- The draft Plan includes analysis of waste infrastructure in each region to identify unique needs, challenges and opportunities.
- Identified priorities include expansion of existing infrastructure, establishment of new processing and consolidation facilities and transfer of materials between regions to utilise existing capacity.
- A draft Submission was developed and distributed to Local Government for feedback.
- State Council endorsed the Submission via Flying Agenda on 23 June 2023.

### Attachment

- [Flying Minute and Submission on the Draft Western Australian State Waste Infrastructure Plan](#)

### Background

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation released a draft [Western Australia State Waste Infrastructure Plan](#) (draft Plan) for comment by 23 June 2023. The draft Plan aligns with the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030* (State Waste Strategy) and supports the strategy target of long-term planning for waste infrastructure at a state level.

The draft Plan includes a summary of waste generation, flows and infrastructure needs for each region across the state, focusing on the built infrastructure required for municipal solid waste, commercial and industrial waste and construction and demolition waste. It identifies likely capacity constraints with current infrastructure and provides a framework for future decision making.

Once adopted, the plan is proposed to be reviewed every five years. The forecast modelling used in the draft Plan assumes all 2030 State Waste Strategy targets are met. If the targets are not achieved, impacts on the anticipated capacity will need to be addressed in future reviews of the plan.

WALGA held a workshop on 31 May 2023 to seek feedback from the sector on the draft Plan, which 47 Local Government representatives registered for. The Submission has been updated following feedback from this workshop and the Officers Advisory Group. The Submission was considered and endorsed by the Environment and Waste Policy Team and the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC). State Council considered and endorsed the Submission via out of session flying Agenda on 23 June 2023.



## **Comment**

The Submission examines the principles identified to guide planning, the specific considerations for regional areas and the limitations of some of the data used to formulate the draft Plan. WALGA considers the draft Plan provides a useful starting point for engagement and discussion with Local Government regarding waste infrastructure requirements. However, Local Government has expressed concern that aside from the Plan, there needs to be other supporting policies, programs and approaches to enable the development of the necessary infrastructure required to meet State Waste Strategy Targets.

The Submission highlights the following issues:

- That waste management needs to be integrated into the planning and development frameworks to ensure effective waste services can be provided;
- The need to manage waste as close to source of generation as possible;
- That detailed consultation needs to be undertaken with Local Governments (and other waste generating entities) in each region as to the proposed infrastructure activities and their long-term viability, prior to the plan being formally adopted. This will then guide the support and incentives for investment in local processing options;
- That the data on which the draft Plan is based needs to be current and that when considering waste facility capacity, the actual capacity, ability and willingness to accept the proposed waste streams is essential to ensure waste needs of regional communities are met; and
- Transfer stations and container deposit scheme depots need to be included in the plan.

### 9.3 Flying Minute – Submission on Directions Paper: *Review of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2023*

By Rebecca Brown, Manager, Waste and Environment

#### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the Submission on the Directions Paper: *Review of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030*, as endorsed via Flying Minute.

#### Executive Summary

- The State Government has released a *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 (Waste Strategy)* [Directions Paper](#), as the first stage of consultation for the Strategy Review. Submissions were due 11 July 2023.
- Feedback on the Directions Paper will inform an updated Draft Waste Strategy, which will be released for consultation in late 2023 for a minimum of 12 weeks.
- A draft Submission was developed and distributed to Local Government for feedback.
- Focus areas for the updated Strategy identified in the Submission, include:
  - Increased focus on evidence-based waste avoidance programs for priority wastes;
  - Engagement with Commercial & Industrial sector;
  - Influencing effective national product stewardship schemes for electronic waste, packaging and tyres; and
  - Coordination and support for regional and remote areas.
- State Council considered and endorsed the Submission via Flying Agenda on 10 July 2023.

#### Attachment

- [Flying Minute and Submission on the Directions Paper: Review of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030](#)

#### Background

The Waste Authority is reviewing the 2019 State Waste Strategy. The review will seek feedback on how the Waste Strategy is performing, what is working and opportunities for improvement. The first step in the review process was the release of a [Directions Paper](#) on 30 May 2023, for a six week consultation period closing 11 July. A Draft Waste Strategy will be released in late 2023 for a minimum 12 week consultation.

The Directions Paper seeks feedback on opportunities to build on existing initiatives, such as Containers for Change and WA's Plan for Plastics, improve service delivery in regional and remote communities, align with state policy and further investigate emerging technologies as alternatives to landfill. The Directions Paper also requests feedback on the Waste Strategy's current objectives, targets and priority materials, application of the Waste Levy and emergency management of waste.

A draft Submission on the Directions Paper was developed and circulated to Local Government for feedback. A consultation session with Local Government was held on 14 June 2023 to gather feedback from the sector, with 21 Local Governments registered for the session. The Officers Advisory Group also met on 21 June 2023 to discuss the draft Submission and the key issues for inclusion in the final Submission. This Submission also draws on previous WALGA's submissions to the 2018 [Consultation Paper](#) and [Draft](#) of the current Waste Strategy.

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council and Environment Policy Team considered and endorsed the Submission on Wednesday 26 June 2023. State Council considered and endorsed the Submission via out of session flying Agenda on 10 July 2023.

## **Comment**

The Submission notes that the current Waste Strategy has propelled change in how waste is managed in Western Australia, with a number of important initiatives being implemented. This includes Containers for Change, the WA Plan for Plastic and large funding programs for infrastructure. Reviewing the Strategy provides an important opportunity to build on this momentum and further increase public engagement in achieving the Waste Strategy objectives and targets. The Submission responds to the questions asked in the Directions Paper and identifies the key focus areas for the future, include:

- Increasing the focus on waste avoidance, through evidence based programs for priority waste streams such as food waste, plastics and textiles;
- Undertaking engagement and developing opportunities for the Commercial & Industrial sector to reduce waste and increase recovery;
- Influencing the development of effective Product Stewardship Schemes at national level, for priority materials including electronic waste, mattresses, packaging and tyres; and
- Coordination and support and for regional and remote areas to assist in developing regional infrastructure solutions to increase resource recovery and undertaking initiatives to reduce waste.

This is the first stage of consultation, as part of the Waste Strategy Review, and offers the opportunity to raise key gaps in the current approach. These issues will be further explored with stakeholders to inform the development of the Draft Waste Strategy, scheduled for release in late 2023.

## 9.4 Flying Minute – Submission on Discussion Paper: Stage 3 *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* Review

By Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Environment

### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the Submission on the Discussion Paper: *Stage 3 Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act Review*, as endorsed via Flying Minute.

### Executive Summary

- The Independent Review Panel released a Discussion Paper on the third and final stage of consultation on the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act) for comment by due 30 June 2023. WALGA requested and received an extension until 12 July 2023.
- The Review Panel sought feedback on nine priority areas for reform, and 21 opportunities to ‘clarify, strengthen and support a strengthened biosecurity system in WA’.
- WALGA’s Stage 3 Submission builds on the recommendations in the WALGA BAM Act Review Discussion Paper and aligns with the Biosecurity Advocacy Position endorsed by State Council in December 2022.
- Feedback from Local Government identified the key reform areas as:
  - Clarifying the role of the BAM Act: ensure that the ecological impact of pests and diseases as well as the agricultural impacts are considered equally;
  - Planning and reporting: establishing a formal biosecurity body, including key stakeholders, to provide strategic leadership and consideration of local, regional and state-wide priorities; and
  - Community led pest management: establishing a broad-based Declared Pest Rate, applied across WA to all freehold, leasehold or rural land above a certain size, with Local Government as an eligible entity to receive funding from this Rate.
- The key concerns raised by the sector were in relation to:
  - Emergency Powers: Ensuring Local Government is consulted on the development of these powers, particularly where the emergency response will impact on Local Governments’ operations and responsibilities;
  - Community led pest management: Although there may be additional funding available, this may not guarantee funding to deliver all programs expected by the community; and
  - Compliance with WA’s biosecurity laws: Increased budget for State Government led compliance operations was considered critical by the sector, rather than relying on Local Laws.
- State Council endorsed the Submission via Flying Agenda on 12 July 2023.

### Attachment

- [Flying Minute and Submission on the Discussion Paper: Stage 3 Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act Review](#)

### Background

The [Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007](#) (BAM Act) is the regulatory framework for Western Australia’s plant and animal pest and disease biosecurity, the use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals, and ensuring safe and quality agricultural products. An [Independent Panel](#) was appointed to undertake the first 10-year [statutory review](#) of the Act’s operation and effectiveness, which commenced in March 2022. The Panel has undertaken a three-stage engagement process.

Stage 3 of the Review invited comment on a [Discussion Paper](#) setting out nine priority reform areas and 21 opportunities within these to 'clarify, strengthen and support a strengthened biosecurity system in WA'. WALGA prepared a [draft Submission](#) that outlined the potential benefits or issues of each reform area, as well as where the Review Panel's target outcomes and reform opportunities align with WALGA's 2022 Biosecurity Advocacy Position. WALGA hosted a webinar with the Review Panel Chair on the Stage 3 reform opportunities on Wednesday, 14 June, the recording is available [here](#). The webinar was attended by 34 representatives from 22 Local Governments. WALGA also circulated the draft Submission to all Zones and sought feedback directly from Local Governments.

The Environment Policy Team endorsed the Submission on 5 July. WALGA requested, and was granted, an extension to the closing date to ensure State Council could consider the Submission. State Council considered and endorsed the Submission via out of session flying Agenda on 12 July 2023.

### **Comment**

Feedback from Local Government identified strong support for the following reform areas and opportunities:

- Clarifying the role of the BAM Act: ensure that the ecological impact of pests and diseases as well as the agricultural impacts are considered equally.
- Planning and reporting: establishing a formal biosecurity body, including key stakeholders, to provide strategic leadership and consideration of local, regional and state-wide priorities.
- Community led pest management: establishing a broad-based Declared Pest Rate, applied across WA to all freehold, leasehold or rural land above a certain size, with Local Government as an eligible entity to receive funding from this Rate.

Key concerns raised with the following reform areas and opportunities:

- Emergency Powers: Ensuring Local Government is consulted on the development of these powers, particularly where the emergency response will impact on Local Governments' operations and responsibilities.
- Community led pest management: Although there may be additional funding available, this may not guarantee funding to deliver all programs expected by the community.
- Compliance with WA's biosecurity laws: Increased budget for State Government led compliance operations was considered critical by the sector, rather than relying on Local Laws.

The Submission makes clear that significant additional consultation with key sectors in the biosecurity system, including Local Government, will be vital to ensure any adopted reforms are carefully designed to ensure successful implementation.

## 9.5 Flying Minute – Independent Strategic Review of the Infrastructure Investment Program Submission

*By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure*

### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

**That State Council note the Independent Strategic Review of the Infrastructure Investment Program submission, as endorsed via Flying Minute.**

### Executive Summary

- The Commonwealth is conducting a 90-day independent strategic review of the \$120 billion infrastructure investment program.
- The scope includes key Local Government infrastructure funding programs such as Roads to Recovery.
- The submission supports continuation and expansion of the Commonwealth Government investment in Local Government infrastructure through both non-competitive and specific purpose funding programs.
- The submission was endorsed by State Council on 14 July by way of Flying Minute.

### Attachment

- [Flying Minute and submission to the Independent Strategic Review of the Infrastructure Investment Program](#)

### Policy Implications

The submission is based on the principles of Local Government decision-making autonomy in relation to local investment priorities and provision of adequate funding to Local Governments to meet the reasonable infrastructure needs of the community.

### Background

On 1 May 2023, the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Hon Catherine King, announced a review of the Government's 10-year, \$120 billion infrastructure pipeline.

The 90-day review will be undertaken by former federal and state bureaucrats Mike Mrdak, Reece Waldock and Clare Gardiner-Barnes.

The review scope covers key Local Government infrastructure funding programs including the Roads to Recovery, Black Spot, Bridges Renewal, Roads of Strategic Importance (Secondary Freight Networks) and Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Programs.

The Commonwealth Infrastructure Investment Program is budgeted to provide about \$170 million to Western Australian Local Governments in 2023/24.

During meetings with Hon Catherine King on 24 May, the WALGA President and Chief Executive secured agreement for Local Governments to provide a submission to the review team.

The State and Territory Local Government Associations worked together with ALGA to develop a survey instrument that could be used across all jurisdictions to inform submissions to the review. Forty-eight Western Australian Local Governments provided survey responses.

The draft submission was considered and endorsed by the Infrastructure Policy team on 5 July. The submission was endorsed by State Council on 14 July by way of Flying Minute.

## Comment

All responses, from metropolitan, rural and remote Local Governments recognized the important role and contribution of the Commonwealth in providing funding contributions for Local Government infrastructure. The Commonwealth funded 28.6% of Local Government road expenditure in 2021/22. Outside of the metropolitan region, Commonwealth funding contributed nearly 35% of the investment in road maintenance, renewal and upgrades.

The submission highlights:

- improved equity by the providing non-competitive grants such as the Roads to Recovery Program,
- the benefits of providing funding certainty over longer periods of time enabling Local Governments to build industry capacity, align delivery with 10-year road asset management plans, and
- the benefits of providing flexibility to manage project delivery timing within the economic cycle.

The submission notes that the internal project delivery capability within the Local Government sector has enabled projects to be progressed but recognizes that civil construction market capacity has extended delivery times for projects. Large increases in project costs are identified by survey respondents supporting a call for increased funding overall, and for caps on the size of certain projects to be reviewed and updated.

Local Government delivered projects and programs represent about 4.5% of the Infrastructure Investment Program over the 2023/24 to 2026/27 period, so are not contributing significantly to market pressures.

The recommendations are that:

1. The Commonwealth should continue to fund infrastructure investment programs that support projects identified and prioritised at regional and local levels such as Roads to Recovery and the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program. Non-competitive grant programs that do not require co-funding ensure that areas with lower financial capacity and resources are not further disadvantaged, improving equity.
2. The Commonwealth should seek to broaden the scope of eligible projects to enable Local Governments to align these with wider Government policy objectives including net zero, regional development and resilience.
3. Programs should continue to provide multi-year funding certainty to enable Local Governments to develop construction industry capacity and support long-term maintenance programs and strategic planning efforts.
4. The Commonwealth should continue to fund programs focused on delivering nationally prioritised outcomes including road safety (Black Spot program), international competitiveness (Roads of Regional Significance, Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity) and equity (Bridges Renewal Program).
5. The Commonwealth should increase the funding to infrastructure investment programs to reflect significant increases in infrastructure construction costs over the past three years, the need to upgrade roads to contribute to safety objectives and increase resilience in the face of increasing frequency and intensity of flooding.



## 9.6 Flying Minute – Submission on Discussion Paper – Wired for Change: regulation for small electrical products and solar photovoltaic system waste

By Rebecca Brown, Manager, Waste and Environment

### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the Submission on the Discussion Paper: Wired for Change: regulation for small electrical products and solar photovoltaic system waste, as endorsed via Flying Minute.

### Executive Summary

- The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water released a Discussion Paper outlining the proposed new regulated product stewardship scheme for two categories of electrical waste: small electrical and electronic equipment and solar photovoltaic (PV) systems for comment by 23 July 2023.
- The current national Product Stewardship Scheme for electronic waste does not meet the needs of Local Government as it does not cover all electronic waste, or the costs associated with recycling. Local Government has also expressed concern regarding the equity of the geographic coverage of the Scheme.
- The proposed new scheme meets most Local Government requirements, with:
  - a guarantee that all costs associated with the recycling of this e-waste is covered for sites which are part of the Scheme;
  - most electronic waste currently being disposed of at Local Government sites being included, as well as an opportunity for additional products to be added over time; and
  - an equitable access requirement.
- The design of the proposed scheme has been informed by consultation with WALGA, other Local Government Associations, and key stakeholders. WALGA has emphasised the need for these elements of the Scheme, as well as targets that do not limit collection amounts and align with infrastructure and markets for products collected.
- State Council considered and endorsed the Submission via Flying Agenda on 21 July.

### Attachment

- [Flying Minute and Submission on the Discussion Paper: Wired for Change: regulation for small electrical products and solar photovoltaic system waste](#)

### Background

In 2011, the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme (NTCRS) was launched and initially covered all costs associated with recycling products covered under the Scheme. At this time only about 10 per cent of electronic waste collected by Local Government was outside the NTCRS. Over time, Local Government has identified significant problems with the NTCRS, as it has ceased to cover all costs associated with recycling these materials and the scope of electronic waste being disposed of has broadened, with approximately 30 per cent of what is now collected now being outside the NTCRS.

In 2018, the now Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) commenced a review of the NTCRS. The Department has consulted with Local Government and other stakeholders in the lead up to the most recent phase in this review and is now seeking feedback on a new regulatory approach to product stewardship for two categories of electrical waste, small electrical and electronic equipment and solar photovoltaic (PV) systems outlined in [Wired for change: Regulation for small electrical products and solar photovoltaic system waste](#) (the Discussion Paper).

Also important in the context of this Submission is the e-waste landfill ban which the Western Australian Government has [committed](#) to implement by 2024. WALGA's [submission](#) to the State Government, highlights Local Governments' significant concern regarding the misalignment in the

timeframe for the landfill ban and an effective national product stewardship scheme for the materials covered by the Ban being in place.

MWAC considered the Discussion Paper at its June 2023 meeting and a webinar, with 60 Local Governments registered, was held on Thursday, 6 July. Local Governments were also encouraged to make their own submissions on the Discussion Paper. WALGA also shared the Submission with other State and Territory Local Government Associations. State Council endorsed the Submission via out of session Flying Agenda on 21 July.

### **Comment**

Local Governments key concerns with the NTCRS include that the Scheme does not cover all types of electronic waste, or costs associated with the recycling products collected, and that there is not equitable geographic access to recycling options under the Scheme.

WALGA's Submission notes that the new scheme, as outlined in the Discussion Paper, potentially addresses most of the issues that Local Government has raised with the NTCRS and includes the key components of a successful product stewardship scheme, notably:

- A guarantee that all costs associated with the recycling of e-waste and PV's is covered. This includes transport cost, which is particularly important for regional and remote Local Governments;
- A Scheme which covers the majority of electronic waste currently being disposed of at Local Government sites and includes a clear mechanism for additional products to be added over time;
- Enabling equitable access to the Scheme across Australia; and
- Targets that do not limit collection amounts and align with infrastructure and markets for products collected.

Other Recommendations in the Submission:

- A mechanism for annual feedback from stakeholders, including Local Government, to determine if types of electronic waste outside the Scheme are increasing, and should therefore be considered for inclusion;
- Ensuring the Department is resourced to take and act on the feedback regarding expansion of the Scheme; and
- That e-cigarettes are included in an effective product stewardship program, such as the return unwanted medicines program, to ensure safe disposal and resource recovery.

## 9.7 Flying Minute – Submission to the Review of the Main Roads Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Guidelines

*By Max Bushell, Policy Officer Road Safety and Infrastructure*

### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the submission to Main Roads WA on the draft Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Guidelines, and the following principles regarding the design and implementation of pedestrian crossings, as endorsed via Flying Minute:

1. **Planning at the local level**  
A detailed understanding of modal networks at the local level and/or local transport plans should inform where and which pedestrian crossing types are implemented.
2. **Pedestrian Crossings are essential**  
High-speed, high-volume roads are the major barrier to active transport that must be resolved.
3. **Pedestrian Priority**  
Pedestrian travel should be given equal weight to vehicular travel. High-quality, cost-effective, pedestrian-priority crossings should be implemented wherever possible. Pedestrian Crossings on roads with heavy vehicles should also be given higher priority toward the implementation of a safe, pedestrian-priority crossings in the Guidelines, based on the risk to the pedestrian.
4. **Cost**  
Cost-effective pedestrian-priority crossings should be considered first, rather than high-cost facilities. The Guidelines should provide guidance on the cost of installing pedestrian crossing facilities and general information on which party may bear the costs.
5. **Proactive Approach**  
Forecast pedestrian demand based on network planning, rather than existing pedestrian counts should be used to plan appropriate crossings.
6. **Speed**  
Vehicle travel speed requirements for implementing pedestrian crossings must not be a barrier to selecting and installing pedestrian-priority crossings, but should be a consideration in selecting cost-effective designs.
7. **Intersections**  
Intersection designs, including roundabouts, should accommodate pedestrian crossing priority.

### Executive Summary

- Main Roads provided the draft Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Guidelines to WALGA for review and comment.
- Seven overarching principles are proposed to inform revisions to the draft Guidelines document:
  - That planning at the Local Government level be considered in determining where and which crossing types are implemented;
  - That pedestrians must be accommodated with facilities, regardless of vehicle speeds and vehicle volume considerations;
  - That high-quality, pedestrian-priority crossings be considered first rather than last;
  - That lower cost high-quality, pedestrian-priority crossings be considered first, rather than higher cost crossings
  - That the guidelines incorporate a proactive approach, rather than react to pedestrian demand, which is often not present;

- That the operating speed to implement high-quality, pedestrian-priority crossings be increased, so this is not a barrier to implementing pedestrian crossings;
- That intersection designs, particularly roundabouts, be included that support pedestrian-priority crossings.
- These principles guide numerous proposed revisions to the text of the draft Guidelines.
- Revisions to the Pedestrian Crossing Facility Guidelines are important to Local Government, as Local Governments maintain most of the path network, have a nuanced understanding of transport in their jurisdiction, and often prepare active transport planning documents that include priority pedestrian networks.
- The submission was considered and endorsed by State Council by way of Flying Minute on 11 August.

## Attachment

- [Flying Minute: Submission to the Review of the Main Roads Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Guidelines](#)

## Policy Implications

This submission creates a new [policy position](#), which outlines seven general principles that enable Local Governments to provide pedestrian crossings to support a safe, comfortable, and connected pedestrian network.

## Background

WALGA has been invited by Main Roads WA to review and provide comment on a draft version of the Pedestrian Crossings Facilities Guidelines (the Guidelines) from the Local Government perspective. The current Guidelines were published in 2020. This is part of our standard review process for Main Roads WA policies that affect Local Governments. Main Roads WA have invited individual Local Governments to make submissions, so this was not duplicated by WALGA.

The Infrastructure Policy Team considered this issue on 28 July 2023 and unanimously supported a recommendation to consider this issue in a State Council Flying Minute. The submission was endorsed via Flying Minute by State Council on 11 August and was then provided to Main Roads.

## Comment

The Guidelines provide advice on appropriate types, locations, and treatments for pedestrian crossing facilities and outline the warrants for implementing pedestrian crossing facilities. The stated intent of the Guidelines is to support the provision of facilities for safer, accessible, and convenient pedestrian movements.

WALGA identified elements of the Guidelines that limit the capacity for Local Governments to manage the safe, comfortable, and connected movement of pedestrians, which are outlined in the bullet points below.

- **Planning Documents/Sound Planning:** Local Governments are often responsible for active mobility infrastructure, including the provision of footpaths. The implementation of the pedestrian network of infrastructure elements is often guided by an Integrated Transport Plan, Walk and Ride Plan, or other strategic planning document. No mention is made of Local Government's plans in planning for pedestrians in the Guidelines.
- **Vehicle Volumes/Speed:** The Guidelines, as written, make implementing high-quality pedestrian priority crossing facilities very difficult on roads with higher speeds/higher traffic volumes. However, it is precisely on these roads that such crossing facilities are fundamental to the creation of a safe, comfortable, and connected pedestrian network.
- **Pedestrian Priority:** A cornerstone of delivering a safe, comfortable, and connected pedestrian network is providing crossings with pedestrian priority, i.e. where motorists give way to pedestrians. The Guidelines make it very difficult to implement pedestrian-priority crossings, e.g. zebra/wombat crossings or pedestrian signals, and clearly state that vehicle delay is more important than pedestrian delay.

- **Cost:** Particularly on higher speed or higher volume roads, the Guidelines recommend treatments that are often prohibitively expensive for Local Governments to implement (pedestrian bridges or pedestrian signals). If the Local Government cannot afford the treatment, then pedestrians are not accommodated to cross at all.
- **Retrospective Approach:** Pedestrian demand is a key determinant of the type of crossing that would be proposed or considered. However, without a crossing in place, it is unlikely that pedestrian demand can be demonstrated.
- **Speed Reduction Stipulation:** In order to implement an at-grade pedestrian priority crossing, vehicle speeds must be reduced to 30 km/h or below at that location. This is exceedingly difficult to achieve without substantial cost implications for Local Governments and is particularly difficult to achieve on higher speed roads, making this well-intentioned stipulation a barrier to implementing pedestrian crossings. In addition, Local Governments do not have authority to set speed limits.
- **Crossings at Intersections:** Roundabouts are particularly unfriendly to pedestrians in that vehicles are not required to stop. This guide reinforces vehicular priority at roundabouts. Designs do exist to create roundabouts that are safer and more comfortable for people walking (pedestrian priority), but are not proposed in the Guidelines.

To realise the goals identified in Local Government planning documents (e.g., Integrated Transport Plans, Walk and Ride Plans) of developing a safe, comfortable, and connected pedestrian network, seven principles to inform revisions to the Guidelines are presented below.

These principles align with the following State Strategies/Initiatives:

- Driving Change – Road Safety Strategy for Western Australia – “Community feedback shows widespread support for **traffic calming measures in busy areas** that will prevent collisions with pedestrians and cyclists and **make local communities more people-friendly.**”
- Foundations for a Stronger Tomorrow: State Infrastructure Strategy – Under Tomorrow 2042 - “Fully integrated planning and delivery results in more efficient and flexible connections between transport modes and stimulates and supports greater infill housing development, with **a modal shift towards greater public transport use and active transport.**”
- WA Active Mobility Strategy – “The WA Active Mobility Strategy (AMS) will be an overarching strategic document that outlines **a coordinated approach to increase active mobility in Western Australia.**”
- Your Move: More Ways to Get There – “Your Move is a Department of Transport program that helps **people find alternative, active ways** to get to and from work, school and around their local community.”

### 1. Planning at the Local Government Level

Local Governments have a nuanced understanding of their modal networks. The State Government does not share this micro-level understanding of the local context. These guidelines should acknowledge this expertise and allow sound planning at the Local Government level to inform where and which pedestrian crossing types are implemented.

### 2. Pedestrian Crossings are Essential

High-speed, high-volume roads are the barrier most likely to be encountered by people completing trips on foot across WA. The guidelines should acknowledge that pedestrian crossings are essential regardless of vehicle speed and volume and that not providing a safe crossing is an unacceptable outcome.

### 3. Pedestrian Priority

The Guidelines identify non-priority crossings as the crossings to consider first. However, this type of crossing provides the lowest level of safety and comfort for pedestrians. The guidelines should recommend starting with high-quality, cost-effective, pedestrian-priority crossings in the first instance and recommend only implementing non-priority crossings as a last resort. Pedestrian travel should be given equal weight to vehicular travel. Pedestrian Crossings on roads with heavy vehicles should

also be given higher priority toward the implementation of a safe, pedestrian- priority crossings in the Guidelines, based on the risk to the pedestrian.

#### **4. Cost**

Local Governments are responsible in most instances for the installation and maintenance of active mobility facilities within their jurisdictions. The Guidelines recommend installing pedestrian signals or grade-separated pedestrian crossings under certain circumstances. However, these are often very expensive to construct and maintain. The guidelines should recommend the implementation of lower-cost pedestrian-priority crossings first, rather than high-cost facilities. The Guidelines should also provide guidance on the cost of installing pedestrian crossing facilities and general information on which party may bear the costs.

#### **5. Proactive Approach**

As vulnerable road users, pedestrians are unlikely to cross in large numbers in areas that are unsafe. The Guidelines should adopt a more proactive approach and acknowledge the value of network planning, instead of responding to pedestrian demand, which will not be present in areas with no crossing facilities. Additionally, a suite of appropriate design options should be provided to fit every situation.

#### **6. Speed**

The Guidelines mandate an operating speed reduction to 30 km/h at pedestrian crossings. Most roads in WA are speed zoned at 50 km/h or higher. While this reduction in operating speed is laudable from a safety perspective, this requirement effectively acts as a barrier to implementing pedestrian crossings, due to the difficulty in achieving this reduction without very costly infrastructure improvements and the prevailing high speeds on most roads in WA. Local Governments also do not have the authority to set speed limits.

#### **7. Intersections**

Certain infrastructure types, while safer for vehicles, can be very difficult to navigate for pedestrians, particularly roundabouts. The Guidelines should provide designs that accommodate pedestrians with priority at roundabouts to support the creation of a safe, comfortable, and connected pedestrian network.



## 9.8 Concurrent Commonwealth Disaster Reviews

By Rachel Armstrong, Senior Policy Advisor Emergency Management

### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

**That State Council note that the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is undertaking three separate but complimentary reviews to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Commonwealth disaster funding and governance.**

### Executive Summary

- The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is undertaking three separate but complimentary reviews to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Commonwealth disaster funding and governance:
  - [Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding](#)
  - [Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Review](#)
  - [Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements](#)
- These reviews will seek to identify areas of duplication, gaps, and opportunities to streamline processes and align with best practice and the recommendations of the *Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements* and National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework.
- WALGA is preparing a submission to the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding, due 18 August 2023.
- The submission will be provided to State Council for endorsement via Flying Agenda.
- The submission presents an opportunity to raise the sectors concerns about the Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Arrangements (DRFA) and other Commonwealth Disaster Funding grant processes.
- WALGA is seeking further information to ascertain if there is an opportunity to contribute to the Governance and DRFA reviews.

### Background

In response to the multiple natural disasters that have occurred over the last three years and the increased severity, intensity, and complexity of natural disasters, the Commonwealth Government has identified that there is a need to improve overall recovery and response capability and encourage greater investment in disaster risk reduction.

The [Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding](#) (the Independent Review) will examine all Commonwealth disaster funding to ensure it supports a system that is effective and fit-for-purpose given the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters. It will also consider how government investment in disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery can better support a national system that makes our communities safer and builds resilience to natural disasters. This review is being undertaken by Andrew Colvin AO.

The [Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Review](#) (the DRFA Review) addresses recommendations made by the *Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements* and the former Council of Australian Governments (COAG). It will seek to ensure equitable access to funding support so that disaster impacted communities are treated consistently and fairly. It also aims to streamline processes so that governments are able to respond quickly and appropriately to severe disasters; and encourage jurisdictions to build back better and generate greater investment in resilience during the recovery effort.

The [Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements](#) (the Governance Review) will consider how all levels of government work together effectively in relation to emergency management. This will include how the government serves the current and future state of national natural disaster preparedness, adaption, response, recovery, resilience and long-term policy

requirements in Australia. The Governance Review is being led by climate change and disaster management expert Dr Robert Glasser.

The DRFA Review and the Governance Review are separate but complementary to the Independent Review. Outcomes from the DRFA Review will feed into the overarching objective of the Independent Review. Each review will ultimately seek to improve outcomes across the prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery aspects for disaster-affected communities.

### **Comment**

The Independent Review provides an opportunity for WALGA to raise sector concerns about the DRFA and other Commonwealth Disaster Funding grants.

Opportunities for Local Governments to contribute to the Commonwealth Disaster Funding Review have been communicated by WALGA and by the review team from Deloitte, including through a public submission and a Local Government Survey sent to CEOs, Mayors and Presidents.

WALGA will continue to participate in consultations and update the sector about opportunities to provide input into these reviews.



## 10. ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

### 10.1 Key Activity Reports

#### 10.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio

*By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure*

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council note the Key Activity Report from the Infrastructure Portfolio for September 2023.**

*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.

#### **Roads**

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

The first year of LGTRRIP has successfully delivered three research projects: a Local Government guideline for sustainable road construction practices in WA, a guideline for the selection and implementation of low-cost road safety improvements on rural roads, and a practical guide to the timely sealing for Local Government roads. Three webinars were delivered to introduce these new tools to Local Government officers. A fourth project to develop design and construction guidelines for the use of crushed recycled concrete pavements has commenced. The Operations Team, comprising Local Government practitioners will select further projects for the 2023/24 year.

##### 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. WALGA will use the data collected in the upcoming unit rates survey by the Grants Commission to determine the appropriate rates for the guides.

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

A scope of work has been prepared for a condition survey of all Roads of Regional Significance in the Southwest region. This included correcting errors in the database to ensure that all intended roads are covered. This request will shortly go to market with the intention of the working commencing in the field in November.

##### Road Rail Interface Agreements

Rail Interface Agreements are a requirement under the Rail Safety National Law (WA) Act 2015. Agreements between metropolitan Local Governments and the Public Transport Authority (PTA) require review and updating. The Association has been working closely with Main Roads WA and the support of Local Governments to seek a more practical approach to safely conducting road work more than 3m from the rail line, where PTA manages the works, but within the boom gated area. The aim is to develop a model agreement that can be recommended to the impacted Local Governments for consideration.

## Funding

### Procedures for the State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement

Despite the unanticipated delay in signing the new State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement, the accompanying Procedures which give effect to the funding arrangements are being updated to reflect the new Agreement.

### Data Dashboard for Road Assets and Expenditure

A new data dashboard was added to the WALGA website to make information about the Local Government road network and the investment in roads more accessible. This data is regularly used in advocacy work relating to needs and funding for paths and roads.

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

Work continues to harmonise the MCA models used by Regional Road Groups to prioritise project proposals for funding under the Road Project Grant funding pool. The proposed changes 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. The review processes for each region have commenced with the intent of delivering in each region by mid-2024.

### Business Case for Safety Improvement to High Speed Sealed Local Government Roads

The Minister for Transport and Director General of the Transport Portfolio have agreed to endorse the business case that has been prepared to seek funding to improve the level of safety provided to users of high speed, sealed Local Government roads in peri-urban and rural areas. This is an important commitment to enable the cases to be formally considered by Infrastructure WA and Infrastructure Australia. Main Roads WA has indicated that it is prepared to sponsor the proposal, which would provide a proven and cost-effective administrative arrangement.

## Utilities

### Streetlighting

The Association has advocated to Western Power and the Economic Regulation Authority (ERA) for an effective engagement with Local Government in the development of a streetlighting strategy as required as part of the Access Arrangement approved by the ERA in March 2023. Some lighting performance data has been made available by Western Power which is helpful in understanding the outcomes that could be expected. However, significant further work is required to model the cost implications of alternative strategies.

### Underground Power

Targeted Underground Power Program steering committee comprising representatives from State Treasury, Energy Policy WA, Western Power and WALGA met in July and further considered key aspects of the program Guidelines which will need Ministerial approval.

The Reference Group of representatives from the Local Governments with proposed projects in the coming four years, plus others considering underground power projects outside of the program, has continued to engage on-line to identify issues that require clear guidance.

## Road Safety

### Road Safety Ratings for Local Government Roads Project

The LG Stars tool now almost complete, with minimal work still ongoing on the electronic web application. WALGA will deliver a stakeholder presentation on 6 September to provide more detail on the tool, including information on the tool development process, pilot projects, and evaluation. This meeting will be held both in-person at the WALGA office and online. More detail on the tool and a link to the paper and electronic versions of the tool can be found on the RoadWise website.

### Road Safety Council Update

One of the statutory functions of the Road Safety Council is to make recommendations to the Minister responsible for road safety on how Road Trauma Trust Account (RTTA) funds should be spent. At the June 2023 meeting, an overview of the 2023-24 State Budget outcomes were provided to the Road Safety Council. An evaluation plan for RTTA projects was approved and emerging issues associated with electric scooters were considered. The Council also received presentations on the road safety benefits of reducing the maximum default speed (Main Roads WA) and an overview of WA Police Traffic enforcement model and capabilities. A report on the Total Solar Eclipse campaign funded, through the RTTA, was provided.

## 10.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

### RECOMMENDATION

**That State Council note the Key Activity Report from the Member Services Portfolio for September 2023.**

*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 last State Council meeting.

### Association and Corporate Governance

#### Constitutional amendments

On 5 July 2023, a special majority of State Council resolved to put two items to Members at the 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting (AGM):

1. To consider a new Constitution to give effect to an alternate governance model; and
2. To amend the existing Constitution to retain the current governance model with some necessary changes.

The first item considers a new Constitution to give effect to an alternate governance model for WALGA as per the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report.

- The alternate governance model would establish a new Board above the existing State Council and Zone structure.
- Membership of the Board would be drawn from State Council representatives, as well as the option to appoint up to 3 'independent' Members.
- The Board would be responsible for the overall governance of WALGA, including financial oversight and strategic direction.
- The role of State Council under the new model would primarily be focused on policy development and advocacy priorities.

The second item proposes amendments to the existing Constitution to make some necessary changes whilst still retaining the current governance model. The proposed changes are intended to address inconsistencies that have emerged after several rounds of amendments since the Constitution was first adopted by WALGA in 2001.

WALGA's Annual General Meeting will be held at 2:00pm on Monday, 18 September 2023.

### Commercial

#### Preferred Supplier Program (PSP) Summary

The 2022/23 year resulted in a total Member spend of \$395 million under the PSP framework. During the year a total of 89 new supplier Contracts were contracted to the Preferred Supplier Program.

Many of these resulted from Member driven requests. WALGA maintains the agility to enhance Panels by tendering for local and in-demand suppliers resulting from changes to the market composition.

A number of structural changes were made to the PSP categories including revision of the Panel scope of services, and newly developed categories in the areas of EV Charging Infrastructure, Pumps and Irrigation, and Fleet Management Advisory Services. A new Panel scope was set for the Traffic Management Panel and suppliers were re-qualified against the enhanced standards.

#### Current PSP Development Activity

- A new Leisure Equipment category for PSP005 Leisure, Cultural and Community Services is currently being Tendered.
- A public Tender for Hazardous Household Waste (HHW) to support WALGA's HHW Funding Agreement is currently in progress.
- A Request for Information (RFI) process is currently being progressed for EV charging infrastructure in conjunction with the ARENA grant funding application. The outcome will inform the next phase of the grant application process and also facilitate the ability for Members to enter into aggregate purchase arrangements under the framework of the WALGA PSP.
- The contract for Alinea for metropolitan library courier services has been extended for a further year.
- There are currently ad-hoc Tenders out to market across seven of the WALGA Panels to further enhance the WALGA PSP supplier base.

#### Construction and Building Environments (PSP012)

WALGA continues to develop this new contract with the following categories now active:

- Modular and Prefabricated Dwellings
- Construction - New Builds
- Building Refurbishment and Remediation
- Building Demolition, Earthworks and Site Remediation

Additional categories which will be shortly put out tender include:

- Architectural Services
- Aquatic Infrastructure Construction and Refurbishment
- Supply of Construction Materials

Forty Preferred Suppliers are currently appointed under the Panel to deliver construction, refurbishment demolition and modular housing, with new suppliers to be continually added through additional tenders.

The new WALGA contract aspires to enhance capacity and streamline procurement. One of the features of the new contract are newly developed and contemporary Member Contract documents that take Local Government operating requirements and current market compliances into account.

#### Sustainable Energy Project

The WALGA Sustainable Energy Project completed its first year of activity by delivering a collective saving to 48 participants of \$9.6 million. The project delivered Carbon Offsets of 34,000 tonnes.

WALGA has commenced discussions for the scoping of options for future phases of the project. Since the commencement of the project there has been a significant increase in electricity costs, however the WALGA rates are only fixed until March 2025. A presentation will be made to project participants through the forthcoming supplier showcase in September that outline a vision and strategy for future project phases.

## Employee Relations

### 2023 WALGA People and Culture Seminar

WALGA hosted the 2023 People and Culture Seminar on 27 July. 100 attendees were present on the day including HR professionals, executive leaders and CEOs from WA Local Governments. The Seminar attracted a high calibre of presenters including Joanne Farrell (Chair, Safe Work Australia), Senior Commissioner Cosentino (of the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission), and Elizabeth Moran and Mark Civitella (Mills Oakley), among others. Topics covered included psychosocial hazards, workplace diversity and traineeships, bargaining under the *Industrial Relations Act 1979*, employment and safety implications of medicinal cannabis, resilience through uncertainty, developing an attractive employee value proposition and trends in workplace conflict and resolution from the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission.

### Senior Employee Contract Templates

To respond to the increasing member demand for template employment contracts, WALGA Employee Relations has released its first tranche of contract templates for senior employees. The templates were drafted by a law firm specifically for senior employees in WA Local Governments and provide a good starting basis for Local Governments to refresh outdated employment contracts.

## Governance and Procurement

### 2023 Local Government Elections - Candidate Information Briefing webinar

WALGA, together with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) and the WA Electoral Commission, hosted an Election Candidate Information Briefing webinar on Monday, 14 August 2023.

The following presenters provided information on a range of topics, with the aim of preparing successful election candidates for life as an Elected Member:

- Minister for Local Government, the Hon. David Michael – the Importance of Local Government in Western Australia.
- WA Local Government Association President Karen Chappel – why being a Councillor is important in our communities.
- Robert Kennedy, WA Electoral Commissioner, together with Phil Richards, Manager Election Events - on the process and key dates on running to become a Local Government Councillor in 2023.
- WALGA Representatives, the purpose of Local Government, the role of an Elected Member, Conflicts of Interest.
- Department of Local Government Sport & Cultural Industries – The role of DLGSC as the regulator of the Local Government Act and Regulations and key compliance provisions for Elected Members and candidates, including code of conduct requirements.

A recording of the webinar is available for local Governments to include on their websites for candidates.

### Individual Local Government Candidate Briefing sessions

WALGA Governance staff are also available to present at individual Local Government Candidate Information forums. Please contact James McGovern or Tony Brown if you are interested in holding one.

## Training

### State Employment Law Essentials course

With the transition to the State Industrial Relations system, it is important that WALGA provides up to date, relevant, high quality training solutions to keep our sector up to date.

The Employee Relations team has recently delivered a fantastic success story for WALGA Training by recognising a training gap and acting on the need to develop a State Employment Law Essentials course within a very short time frame. In our first months of delivery, this course registered 66 students in July and so far, we have received another 19 registrations for August.

In addition, the Employee Relations team has developed 2 new courses, the HR Toolkit for Managers which is being delivered in mid-August and has 10 registrations so far and Leading with Influence being launched over the next few months.

### Health and Safety Representative Course

The new Health and Safety Representative Course registered with the Department of Mines, Industry, Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) is now fully up and running and bookings are BEING received, particularly for On Site delivery. So far, we have delivered this course to a total of 21 HSR's and another 19 being booked in the near future. The feedback received has been very positive, with neighbouring Councils attending the course to share the cost of the training.

HSR Reps learn about the WHS legislative framework and key parties and their obligation and duties, understanding their role, how to undertake effective consultation, achieve effective participation of PCBU and health & safety committees. HSR's also monitor workplace risks, undertake workplace inspection, record findings and notifiable incidents. A HSR can issue a provisional improvement notice (PIN) and direct the cessation of work.

### Council Member Essentials training for new Elected Members

The update of the Council Member Essentials training for newly Elected Members is in full swing, with all modules being updated and reviewed included the recent legislative and regulatory changes to the Local Government Act.

Training will start on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November with workshops scheduled at WALGA, Virtual classroom via ZOOM, On Site training at Local Government and eLearning being ready on time after the election on 21 October 2023.

### Certificate III in Local Government

In July 2023 we successfully commenced our fourth intake for the Certificate III in Local Government (LGA30120) and it is great to see that there is continued growing interest from Officers to start or further their career by completing this Qualification.

The next term we are offering 2 different study streams. The first one is focusing on financial processing and record keeping skills and the second stream focuses on designing and producing documents in WORD, EXCEL and Power Point.



### 10.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy

#### RECOMMENDATION

**That State Council note the Key Activity Report from the Policy Portfolio for September 2023.**

*The Policy Portfolio comprises the following work units:*

- *Economics*
- *Environment and Waste*
- *Planning and Building*
- *Resilient Communities*

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

#### **Economics**

##### Economic Briefing

WALGA's quarterly Economic Briefing was released in June, providing members with analysis of the economic climate and the impact on Local Governments. It also provided an update of the Local Government Cost Index (LGCI). This edition confirms that growth in the LGCI has peaked, however it remains well above the medium-term levels. Construction costs continue to rise, but at a slower rate, as supply issues are gradually resolved. Wages growth is accelerating as the labour market remains tight, despite an uptick in population growth.

##### Superyacht Industry Working Group

WALGA continues to represent the Local Government Sector on the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation's Superyacht Industry Working Group along with representatives from industry and State Government. Eleven WA Local Governments were consulted on the report into the opportunities for Western Australia to further engage with the emerging superyacht industry. The draft report is being developed and WALGA will have the opportunity to provide comment at an upcoming meeting of the working group.

##### ABA Branch Closure Protocol

The Australian Banking Association released their Branch Closure Support Protocol to guide banks when they close a branch. The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) continues to engage with the Federal Government on behalf of the Sector, and recently hosted a roundtable with Mayors and Presidents to discuss bank service closures in regional areas and the Protocol. There remain concerns among regional Local Governments that Protocol doesn't go far enough. There is a [Senate Committee inquiry](#) into the current extent of bank closures in regional Australia due to report by December 2023.

#### **Environment and Waste**

##### Natural Resource Management Grants

Applications for WALGA's Local Biodiversity and Native Vegetation Management Project closed on 21 July 2023. Funding is available to Local Government to undertake ecological assessments of Local Government managed lands, development of Local Biodiversity Strategies and development and adoption of local planning policies on native vegetation and biodiversity. WALGA and the State NRM Office are currently assessing the funding applications, with an announcement expected in August.

### Product Stewardship

WALGA has been participating on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's Container Deposit Scheme Stakeholder Reference Group on the expansion of the WA Scheme to include, as a minimum wine and spirit bottles. Recommendations from this Group, along with the outcomes of the Public Consultation (including [WALGA's Submission](#)), will be provided to the Environment Minister to inform the next steps in the process.

Other priority products identified by Local Government for effective national product stewardship include tyres, electronic waste, packaging and mattresses. WALGA has been engaging with the Federal Government, as the ALGA representative, through the Government Officers Groups developing product stewardship for electronic waste and packaging. The recent *Wired For Change* consultation (see [Agenda item 9.6](#)) was the first stage in the public consultation to develop an effective national product stewardship scheme. WALGA has taken part in a targeted consultation on the development of the packing product stewardship scheme, with comments provided to ALGA. WALGA is actively engaging with Tyre Stewardship Australia, the current voluntary tyre product stewardship scheme, to facilitate a national survey of Local Governments to capture the current costs of tyres to the sector; this includes recycling and illegal dumping costs. This is the first step in the development of a mandatory product stewardship scheme for tyres.

## **Planning and Building**

### Building Control Information Sessions

WALGA hosted two building control related information sessions in July. Presented by the Department Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety - Building and Energy, these information sessions offered clarification on statutory processing times for building permit applications and enforcement powers under the Building Act 2011. These information sessions were attended by over 50 officers with roles in building control and compliance from both regional and metropolitan Local Governments.

### Draft Position Statement – Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) released an Draft Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Position Statement (Position Statement) on Wednesday, 14 June 2023 for public comment. WALGA hosted an Online Information Session webinar on the implications of the Position Statement, providing guidance to Local Government attendees who are interested in Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure. WALGA provided initial comments in January 2023 on an early draft of the Position Statement. WALGA has prepared a consultation response on the Position Statement.

### CoastWA Local Government Training Program

The first three modules (*Coastal Processes*, *Coastal Protection Works* and *Benefit Distribution Analysis*) of the CoastWA Local Government Training Program were delivered during July and August 2023. Each module had over 100 attendees (either in-person or online) from both regional and metropolitan Local Governments and State Government agencies. The Program is funded through the CoastWA and hosted by WALGA. Digital resources for the training modules will soon be available online.

### Draft Operational Policy 2.3: Planning for Public Open Space

On 9 June 2023 DPLH released draft Operational Policy 2.3 Planning for Public Open Space for public consultation. The draft Policy provides a contemporary framework for planning for POS and specifically addresses POS infill contributions (cash in lieu). WALGA hosted officers from DPLH for an online Local Government Information on the 28 June 2023 which had over 80 attendees where feedback was provided to WALGA through an interactive session. The submission on the draft policy was considered through the flying minute process and will be an item for noting at the December State Council Meeting.

## Resilient Communities

### *Emergency Management*

#### State Emergency Management Committee

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) met on 2 August attended by WALGA CEO Nick Sloan. SEMC Communiqués are available [here](#).

WALGA has provided responses on a number of SEMC consultations including:

- State Hazard Plan Severe Weather
- State Hazard Plan Search and Rescue Emergency
- Rapid Access Permits Guideline (RAPS)
- State Emergency Management Prevention and Mitigation Procedure

#### Emergency Management Survey

WALGA will undertake its third bi-annual Emergency Management Survey in October – November 2023. The Survey will inform WALGA's advocacy on emergency management policy, with a focus on refining our advocacy approach and supporting the development of budget submissions and advocacy in the lead up to the 2024 State Government Election. The survey will be delivered online and will be communicated by WALGA directly to Local Government CEOs, with one response sought from each Local Government. The results of previous surveys in 2019 and 2021 have supported WALGA's advocacy including by informing the review of WALGA's emergency management advocacy positions and budget submissions.

#### Local Emergency Management Arrangements Review and Improvement Plan

The testing phase for the LEMA Implementation Plan is now complete. Findings are outlined in a [Local Government Testing Outcomes Report](#) and confirm that Local Governments are highly supportive of the proposed improvement actions, but are concerned that there is currently no funding allocated to enable their implementation. The final LEMA Improvement Plan will be submitted to the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) for endorsement in August 2023, and publicly available in late August. An application to the National Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) to fund key actions in the improvement Plan is currently under review.

#### LEMC/DEMC Review

In May 2022, SEMC approved a review of the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) and District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) functions and governance. The [LEMC/DEMC Review](#) requires consultation with stakeholders across the EM sector, including representatives from LEMCs, DEMCs and Local Governments. WALGA has been engaged to report on the findings that emerged from WALGA's LEMA Review project relating to the functioning of LEMCs and to promote the ways in which Local Governments can input into a LEMC/DEMC Review.

The consultation process is being delivered by The Nexus Network on behalf of the SEMC Business Unit. Focus groups for LEMC Members, Executive Officers and Chairs will be held online during the week commencing 14 August 2023. The focus groups will seek input on LEMC functions, operations, membership, interactions with DEMCs and effectiveness in achieving the strategic objectives of the SEMC.

WALGA will seek further feedback on LEMC/DEMC Review Outcomes and recommendations from the Local Government sector when they become available.

#### Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the Emergency Management Sector

In May 2022, SEMC determined that the impacts of climate change were significant and required coordinated action to adapt the emergency management framework.

In August 2022, a SEMC Climate Change Subcommittee (CCSC) was established with a key function to oversee the development of a Western Australian Emergency Management Sector Climate Change Adaptation Plan (WA-CCAP). WALGA CEO Nick Sloan was appointed as the SEMC

sponsor. In March 2023, SEMC endorsed WALGA to undertake a consultation with the Local Government sector on a WA-CCAP Discussion Paper developed by DFES. WALGA's consultation outcomes will inform the development of the WA-CCAP prepared by DFES on behalf of the CCSC. WALGA will commence the Local Government consultation process once the WA-CCAP Discussion Paper has been released. A final WA-CCAP is scheduled to be complete by January 2024 and submitted to SEMC for consideration in March 2024.

## **Community**

### Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

On 8 August the [State Government announced](#) it will repeal the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2021* that came into effect on 1 July 2023 and restore the original *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*, with amendments, notably:

- The newly formed Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Council will take on the role of the Committee established under the 1972 Act to make recommendations on Section 18 Notices to the Minister.
- Proponents and Native Title parties will have the same right of review for Section 18 decisions via the State Administrative Tribunal, with clear timeframes and an ability for the Premier to call-in a decision of 'State significance', to act in the interests of all Western Australians.
- When a Section 18 has been approved, a new requirement for the owner to notify the Minister of any new information about an Aboriginal site – an important reform to help prevent another Juukan Gorge.

No timeframe for the repeal of the 2021 Act and reinstatement of the amended 1972 Act, has been announced.

WALGA was not consulted on this decision, but the Premier has indicated that the Implementation Group on which WALGA is a participant will continue, and that the group will work on the transition to the renewed 1972 legislation.

From a Local Government perspective, the following additional points are relevant:

- Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services (LACHS) will not continue. Support will be provided to existing relevant Native Title groups, including the relevant Prescribed Body Corporations, registered claimants or native title representative bodies.
- There will be no requirement for landowners to conduct their own heritage survey.
- The Section 18 process will be strengthened, with these changes mainly impacting miners and Government, whose work most impacts cultural heritage.
- The Government will commence a 10-year plan to undertake heritage surveys of unsurveyed areas in "high priority" areas of the State.

WALGA is seeking clarity from the State Government on the timeframe and the Government's intentions around the application of the existing Act in the interim.

### Local Government Regional Primary Health Services Survey

WALGA's Local Government Regional Primary Health Services Survey was sent to all CEOs on 28 July and closes on 24 August 2023. The survey is gathering information on the extent of funding and support provided by Local Governments to primary healthcare services in their communities. This information will provide an evidence base for ongoing advocacy efforts for this priority issue. Key findings from the survey and recommended advocacy actions will be provided through the December Zone and State Council process.

### Aboriginal Forum

WALGA's 2024 Aboriginal Engagement Forum will be held on 20 March 2024. Event planning is underway with WALGA working with stakeholders to develop the theme and to explore opportunities for event sponsorship.



Most Accessible Community in Western Australia Awards (MACWA)

WALGA is partnering with the Office of Disability to promote the Most Accessible Community in Western Australia awards to Local Governments. Nominations open on 14 August and remain open until 13 October 2023. WALGA has successfully supported a revision of the award categories to ensure they align to Local Government Disability Access and Inclusion Plans.

As well as promoting the awards, WALGA is a judging panel member. The MACWA awards event will be held in the week commencing 27 November 2023 to align with International Day of People with Disability.

## 10.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio

By Narelle Cant, Executive Manager Advocacy

### RECOMMENDATION

**That State Council note the Key Activity Report from the Advocacy Portfolio for September 2023.**

*The Advocacy Portfolio comprises the following work units:*

- *Marketing*
- *Communications*
- *Media*
- *Member Engagement*
- *Government Relations*
- *Events*

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

### Events

#### WALGA Convention 2023

The 2023 Local Government Convention will be held from Sunday, 17 to Tuesday, 19 September and includes the Mayors and Presidents Forum on Sunday afternoon and the Heads of Agencies Breakfast on Monday, 18 September.

This year's Convention, themed Local Futures, has an impressive line-up of speakers, including London bombing survivor Gill Hicks, Melbourne Cup winning jockey Michelle Payne, and Futurist and Business Disruptor, Dominic Thurbon, who will speak to how Local Government leaders can make sense of and respond to the profound forces of change that are reshaping organisations and society. Following Dominic, Ruth Callaghan, from local firm Cannings Purple, will drill down on that theme, looking at the opportunities, risks and challenges of adopting generative Artificial Intelligence (AI). Ruth has worked with WA Local Governments on AI and will speak to those examples and how Local Governments can embed AI, such as ChatGPT, into their operations, with practical examples.

In the plenary sessions on Tuesday, delegates will have the opportunity to hear from experts and other Local Government leaders on the topical issues of regional housing, active mobility and diversity in Local Government.

This year, WALGA is pleased to launch the inaugural Supplier Showcase on Tuesday 19 to Wednesday 20 September, in an outdoor space adjacent to Crown, Perth. The event will feature WALGA preferred suppliers showcasing the latest innovations across industries such as transport, waste management, fleet and building supplies. The event is free of charge and is targeted at Local Government CEOs and officers. Four forums will be hosted by WALGA during the Showcase, focussing on: traffic management; building; procurement; and energy.

To date, almost 450 people have registered to attend the Convention. There is still time to register [here](#), to have the opportunity to come together to build and share knowledge, raise issues, be inspired and enjoy the company of colleagues and friends.



## Media

There have been 100 mentions (separate stories) of WALGA in June and July.

These comprised 35 on radio, 34 in print, 29 online and two television stories.

The 46 media outlets publishing WALGA stories were ABC Regional (13), the west.com.au (10), 6PR Perth (7), The West (5) Post group (4) and 7 others, including ABC 720 Perth.

Comments by WALGA President Karen Chappel on the implementation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act garnered significant coverage in July, after she was interviewed by The West Australian's State Political Editor, Josh Zimmerman.

In public commentary, the President reflected on the current concerns of WALGA Members, namely:

- The unknown costs of implementation to Councils;
- The confusion and lack of clarity around the current Activity Tiers; and
- That any changes to the implementation of the Act should be addressed now, and not at a future date.

The WALGA Media and Communications team continue to receive between five and 10 media queries each week, which do not result in published stories. WALGA continue to provide background briefings and progress media relations and understanding of the sector.

## Marketing

### Local Government Election Campaign

WALGA and the Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries have partnered to deliver a marketing campaign in the lead up of the 2023 Western Australia Local Government elections.

The main aim of the campaign is to increase voter participation in the elections. From September, a targeted digital campaign will be rolled out across a number of platforms, in various languages.

WALGA has also participated in and hosted webinars aimed at attracting candidates for this year's election. Influencers will also be used in a digital campaign to target people from a diverse range of backgrounds to run as candidates.

### Brand refresh

The Advocacy team has been working on a brand refresh that will more clearly articulate WALGA's purpose in representing and supporting Members. This includes a refresh of our logo and tagline but, more importantly, extends to the development an organisational narrative around which WALGA can speak about itself coherently, confidently and consistently.

This narrative will form the basis of how we communicate to our diverse stakeholders through our marketing, media and communications and engagement. We will begin to roll out this refreshed brand and narrative over coming months.

It will also shape the redevelopment of one of WALGA's most important communication and engagement tools, the WALGA website, which is continuing and is now in the design phase.



# STATUS REPORT ON STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

## To the September 2023 State Council Meeting

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
<p><b>5 July 2023</b>  <b>Item 7.1</b>            Review of Urban Forest Advocacy Position</p>	<p>That WALGA endorse a new Advocacy Position 4.6 Urban Forest as follows:</p> <p><i>To promote the growth of Western Australia's urban forest the State Government should:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Identify a lead agency with responsibility for setting the strategic direction and oversight of urban forest initiatives.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Provide recurrent funding for a comprehensive and accessible Urban Greening Grant program to support Local Government investment in public realm planting, focusing on high urban heat areas and enhancing biodiversity outcomes.</i></li> <li>3. <i>In consultation with Local Government:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <i>Develop a state-wide Urban Forest Strategy, based on the overarching principles of a resilient, connected, expanded and equitable urban forest including:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <i>a minimum tree canopy target of 30% by 2040 for the Perth and Peel regions,</i></li> <li>ii. <i>robust and contemporary data to inform decision making,</i></li> <li>iii. <i>funding mechanisms to support growth in urban canopy.</i></li> </ol> </li> <li>b. <i>Develop contemporary legislative and policy mechanisms to enable the protection and growth of urban forest, including:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <i>an effective and efficient regulatory mechanism that allows Local Government to consider the removal or alteration of a significant tree as a form of development,</i></li> <li>ii. <i>incentivising the provision and retention of trees on private property within the state planning framework,</i></li> <li>iii. <i>prioritisation of trees and vegetation as a key structural element in the design of new neighbourhoods to facilitate climate resilient and liveable communities,</i></li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>The <a href="#">Advocacy Positions Manual</a> has been updated.</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews            Executive Manager            Policy</p>

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
	<p><i>iv. consideration of public realm design to maximise opportunities for tree retention and new planting consistent with any tree canopy targets.</i></p> <p>4. <i>Work with Local Government and other stakeholders to increase community awareness and promote behaviour change in relation to urban forest growth and retention to support State and Local Government targets and action.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 460.3/2023</p>			
<p><b>5 July 2023</b> <b>Item 7.2</b> State Planning Policy 3.7 Bushfire</p>	<p>That WALGA endorse the submission on State Planning Policy 3.7 Bushfire and the Planning for Bushfire Guidelines.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 461.3/2023</p>	<p>The submission has been lodged.</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>
<p><b>5 July 2023</b> <b>Item 7.3</b> Reforming WA Disability Legislation Submission</p>	<p>That WALGA endorse the submission to the Department of Communities relating to the Consultation Paper – Reforming WA Disability Legislation.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 462.3/2023</p>	<p>The submission has been lodged.</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>
<p><b>5 July 2023</b> <b>Item 7.4</b> Landfill Bans Advocacy Position</p>	<p>That WALGA endorse the following Landfill Ban Advocacy Position:</p> <p><i>Landfill bans are only supported in the presence of effective product stewardship schemes, or other funding mechanisms, for products which would be subject to the ban.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 463.3/2023</p>	<p>The <a href="#">Advocacy Positions Manual</a> has been updated.</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>
<p><b>5 July 2023</b> <b>Item 7.5</b> Audit Experience Survey Results</p>	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. State Council note the Audit Experience Survey Results Summary; and</li> <li>2. WALGA advocate to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) to reform the audit process for Local Governments by seeking:</li> </ol>	<p>A letter has been sent to the Auditor General outlining WALGA's advocacy positions and suggested reforms to the audit process for Local Governments.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services</p>

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
Summary and Advocacy Position	<p>a. Audits of Local Governments are completed and reported on in a timely manner and that the processes, procedures and scope of audits are consistently applied.</p> <p>b. That the OAG review the requirements for pre-audit information with a view to reducing the need for additional information where possible;</p> <p>c. That the OAG review their costing formulae for Local Government audits and show constraint in audit cost increases;</p> <p>d. That the OAG provide a breakdown on the cost of the audit and justification for any variance to the estimate to the Local Government as part of the final billing process;</p> <p>e. That auditors be required to improve their communication and information management and avoid repeated requests for information that has already been provided or that is publicly available;</p> <p>f. That Local Governments only be required to communicate with contract Auditors (unless the OAG is directly auditing the Local Government) and the onus be placed on the contract Auditors to confirm their advice with the OAG before instructing the Local Government;</p> <p>g. In-conjunction with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, review the application of Fair Value principles in the context of the audit; and</p> <p>h. Seek an opportunity for Local Government to make representations in relation to any adverse findings prior to the publication of the report.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 464.3/2023</p>	<p>In respect to item g, the Minister for Local Government, Hon David Michael has advised that he will make a regulation change to the Financial Management regulations to only require Local Governments to revalue assets once every five years. This will occur with the next installment of regulatory reforms as part of the current legislative reform process.</p> <p>This is very good news and an advocacy success for the Local Government sector and the Minister and Department of Local Government assistance on this matter has been appreciated.</p> <p>The <a href="#">Advocacy Positions Manual</a> has been updated.</p>		

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
<p><b>5 July 2023</b>  <b>Item 7.6</b>            Amendments to WALGA's Constitution</p>	<p>That State Council endorse putting two items to the 2023 Annual General Meeting that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. considers a new Constitution to give effect to the alternate governance model as per the attached, subject to amending clause 2 in respect to the definition of "Special Majority" by inserting the words "the Board or of" after the words "in relation to" and inserting the words "the Board Members or" after the words "comprising enough of" and amending clause 32 as per the following:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Replace "An Absolute" with "A Special"; and</li> <li>b. Insert the word "Special" before majority and delete "of not less than 75%"; and</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. amend the Constitution to retain the current governance model with necessary changes, as per the attached mark-up.</li> </ol> <p>RESOLUTION 466.3/2023</p>	<p>A Notice of Proposed Amendments to the Association Constitution has been distributed to all Local Government Chief Executive Officers and is available on the WALGA website <a href="#">here</a>. The Notice contains the two items that will be put to Members at the 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Monday, 18 September.</p> <p>Information contained in the Notice will also be included in the Agenda papers for the AGM which will be distributed shortly.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Tony Brown            Executive Director            Member Services</p>
<p><b>5 July 2023</b>  <b>Item 7.7</b>            Finance and Services Committee Minutes incorporating the Governance Budget 2023-24 – 28 June 2023 – CONFIDENTIAL</p>	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the Minutes of the Finance and Services Committee meeting held on 28 June 2023 be endorsed; and</li> <li>2. the Governance Budget 2023-24, being for the full year ending 30 June 2024, as recommended by the Finance and Services Committee be endorsed.</li> </ol> <p>RESOLUTION 467.3/2023</p>	<p>Action has been taken to implement the 2023/24 WALGA budget.</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>Tony Brown            Executive Director            Member Services</p>
<p><b>5 July 2023</b>  <b>Item 7.8</b>            Selection Committee Flying Minute – 20 June 2023 – CONFIDENTIAL</p>	<p>That the recommendations contained in the 20 June 2023 Selection Committee Flying Minute be endorsed.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 468.3/2023</p>	<p>The appointments have been actioned.</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>Tony Brown            Executive Director            Member Services</p>

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
<b>5 July 2023</b> <b>Item 7.9</b> LGIS Fees and Board Minutes – CONFIDENTIAL	That State Council: 1. Approve the annual Scheme Management fee payable to JLT is increased by 3.71% for the 2023-24 financial year as recommended by the LGIS Board; 2. Approve a 3.71% increase to the WALGA Trustee Fee from the Scheme; 3. Endorse the reappointment of Mary Woodford as an Independent Director of the LGIS Board for a three-year term upon the expiry of her current term on 31 December 2023; and 4. Note the minutes of the LGISWA Scheme Board meeting held on 11 May 2023.  RESOLUTION 469.3/2023	The resolution has been actioned.	Complete	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
<b>5 July 2023</b> <b>Item 7.12</b> CEO Performance Review Report 2022-2023 – CONFIDENTIAL	That State Council: 1. Note the appraisal of Mr Nick Sloan Chief Executive Officer has been completed for the period of July 2022 to June 2023. 2. Endorse the findings of the 2022-23 Annual Performance Review Report as presented by Price Consulting and thank Mr Sloan for his efforts. 3. Endorse the proposed CEO's Performance Criteria for the 2023-2024 period, as per the attached report. 4. Endorse the next annual performance review process to include 360-degree feedback.  RESOLUTION 472.3/2023	Noted.	Complete	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
<b>5 July 2023</b> <b>Item 8.2</b> Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team Report	That State Council: 1. retain, without amendment, Advocacy Positions: (a) 2.1.10 Recovery of Rates and Service Charges; and (b) 2.5.31 Annual Electors' General Meetings; 2. delete Advocacy Position 2.5.25 Attendance at Council Meetings by Technology; and 3. notes that the Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team endorsed the WALGA 2023 State Wage Case submission.  RESOLUTION 474.3/2023	The <a href="#">Advocacy Positions Manual</a> has been updated.	Complete	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
<b>3 May 2023</b> <b>Item 7.3</b> Abandoned Shopping Trolleys Advocacy Position	That State Council endorse the following position on Abandoned Shopping Trolleys:  <i>The Local Government Sector advocates for State Government to consult with the Sector and prioritise legislative reforms that require retailers to contain shopping trolleys within shopping centre property boundaries, inclusive of enforcement and modified penalty mechanisms that are a realistic economic imperative for retailers to comply with containment requirements.</i>  RESOLUTION 441.2/2023	Correspondence has been written to the Minister for Local Government advocating for legislative reforms to require retailers to contain shopping trolleys within their property boundary.  The <a href="#">Advocacy Positions Manual</a> has been updated.	Ongoing	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
<b>3 May 2023</b> <b>Item 7.5</b> State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement 2023/24 to 2027/28	That the State Roads Funds to Local Government Agreement 2023/24 – 2027/28 be endorsed.  RESOLUTION 443.2/2023	We understand that the draft Agreement endorsed by WALGA State Council was recommended for signing by the Premier and Minister for Transport. A date for signing was not secured prior to the Premier resigning and is now dependent on a new Premier and potentially new Transport Minister being briefed and agreeing.	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure
<b>1 March 2023</b> <b>Item 7.4</b> Submission on Draft Guideline Minimising Noise Impact from Outdoor Community Basketball Facilities	That WALGA: 1. Note that the Environment Minister has withdrawn the Draft Guideline: Minimising noise impact from outdoor community basketball. 2. 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.  RESOLUTION 422.1/2023	Correspondence has been sent, awaiting a response.	Ongoing	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
<p><b>7 December 2022</b> <b>Item 5.1</b> 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>3.1 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>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure</p>
<p><b>7 December 2022</b> <b>Item 5.1</b> 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>3.2 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>The Infrastructure Policy Team resolved: <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>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure</p>



MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
<p><b>7 December 2022</b>  <b>Item 5.1</b>            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:            ...            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>            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>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ian Duncan            Executive Manager Infrastructure</p>
<p><b>7 December 2022</b>  <b>Item 5.1</b>            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:            ...            3.4 Northern Australia Beef Roads Program  <i>That WALGA work with the Hon Madeleine King MP Minister for Resources and Minister for Northern Australia to make Beef Road Funding available to all Australian Local Governments north and south, or establish a Southern Australia Beef Road Funding Program to allow for equitable support across Australia's beef and agriculture industries.</i>            RESOLUTION 394.8/2022</p>	<p>The Infrastructure Policy Team resolved:  <i>That the Association write to the Goldfields Esperance Regional Road Group identifying the issue raised and invite them to consider whether they may partner with other organizations such as Meat and Livestock Australia, the Pastoral and Graziers Association and the Regional Development Commission and RDA to develop a business case to fund roads critical to the southern pastoral beef industry.</i></p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ian Duncan            Executive Manager Infrastructure</p>

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
<p><b>1 December 2021</b> <b>Item 5.3</b> 2021 Annual General Meeting</p>	<p>That the following resolutions from the 2021 WALGA Annual General Meeting be endorsed for action:</p> <p><u>Cost of Regional Development</u> 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.</p> <p>...</p> <p>RESOLUTION 294.7/2021</p>	<p>In March the State Government announced the establishment of a new Infrastructure Development Fund that includes a stream to support the delivery of regional worker accommodation with applications open until September 2024. This is an infrastructure investment program to address infrastructure constraints in the water, wastewater and electricity network at a precinct or strategic site scale impacting the delivery of regional worker accommodation. Full details can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure</p>
<p><b>3 September 2021</b> <b>Item 6.1</b> Stop Puppy Farming Legislation</p>	<p>1. That the update on the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2021 be noted. 2. That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. any additional costs incurred by a Local Government in administering the Dog Act be paid by the State Government; and</li> <li>b. the Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed bi-annually and at minimum, be adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index.</li> </ol> <p>RESOLUTION 275.5/2021</p>	<p>Correspondence has been sent to the Minister for Local Government advising of resolution 2.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services</p>