

State Council

Full Minutes

3 May 2023

Ordinary meeting no. 2 of 2023 of the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) State Council held at the City of Armadale Administration Centre, Function Room, Level 1, 7 Orchard Avenue, Armadale on Wednesday, 3 May 2023.

OPEN and WELCOME

The Chair declared the meeting open at 12:36pm.

The Chair thanked the City of Armadale for hosting the meeting.

1. ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

1.1 Attendance

Members	WALGA President - Chair WALGA Deputy President, Central Metropolitan Zone Avon-Midland Country Zone Central Country Zone Central Metropolitan Zone East Metropolitan Zone East Metropolitan Zone Goldfields Esperance Country Zone Great Eastern Country Zone 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 Catherine Ehrhardt Cr John Daw President Cr Laurene Bonza President Cr Stephen Strange President Cr Chris Pavlovich Cr Chris Mitchell JP Cr Les Price Cr Frank Cvitan JP Cr David Lagan Cr Russ Fishwick JP President Cr Moira Girando JP President Cr Michelle Rich Mayor Peter Carter (Deputy) Mayor Patrick Hall Mayor Ruth Butterfield Cr Barry Winmar (Deputy) Mayor Carol Adams OAM Mayor Logan Howlett JP President Cr Tony Dean
Ex Officio	Local Government Professionals WA President	Ms Annie Riordan
Secretariat	Chief Executive Officer Executive Director Member Services Executive Manager Advocacy Executive Manager Policy Acting Executive Manager Infrastructure Chief Financial Officer Manager Association and Corporate Governance Executive Officer Governance	Mr Nick Sloan Mr Tony Brown Ms Narelle Cant Ms Nicole Matthews Ms Terri-Anne Pettet Mr Rick Murray Mr Tim Lane Ms Kathy Robertson

The Chair welcomed:

- State Councillors
- Deputy State Councillor, Mayor Peter Carter, Pilbara Country Zone
- Deputy State Councillor, Cr Barry Winmar, South Metropolitan Zone
- LG Professionals WA President, Ms Annie Riordan
- WALGA secretariat

Observers:

- Deputy State Councillor, Cr Melissa Northcott, South East Metropolitan Zone
- Cr Scott Mosey, City of Armadale

1.2 Apologies

- Mayor Peter Long, State Councillor, Pilbara Country Zone
- President Cr Cheryl Cowell, State Councillor, Gascoyne Country Zone
- Cr Doug Thompson, State Councillor, South Metropolitan Zone
- President Cr Eddie Smith, Deputy State Councillor, Gascoyne Country Zone
- The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas
- Ian Duncan, WALGA Executive Manager Infrastructure

2. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

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

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

3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Nil.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 Minutes of the State Council meeting held 1 March 2023

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Mayor Logan Howlett JP
Seconded: Cr Frank Cvitan JP

That the Minutes of the WALGA State Council meeting held on [Wednesday, 1 March 2023](#) be confirmed as a true and correct records of proceedings.

RESOLUTION 438.2/2023

CARRIED

4.1.1 Business arising from the Minutes of meeting held 1 March 2023

Nil.

4.2 Flying Minute – Submission to the Independent Review of WA’s COVID-19 Management and Response

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Mayor Logan Howlett JP
Seconded: Cr Frank Cvitan JP

That the [Flying Minute – Submission to the Independent Review of WA’s COVID-19 Management and Response](#) be confirmed as a true and correct records of proceedings.

RESOLUTION 438.2/2023

CARRIED

4.2.1 Business arising from the Flying Minute – Submission to the Independent Review of WA’s COVID-19 Management and Response

Nil.

4.3 Flying Minute – Submission on the Consultation Paper – E-waste to landfill ban in Western Australia

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Mayor Logan Howlett JP
Seconded: Cr Frank Cvitan JP

That the [Flying Minute – Submission on the Consultation Paper - E-waste to landfill ban in Western Australia](#) be confirmed as a true and correct records of proceedings.

RESOLUTION 438.2/2023

CARRIED

4.3.1 Business arising from the Flying Minute – Submission on the Consultation Paper – E-waste to landfill ban in Western Australia

Nil.

**4.4 Flying Minute – Interview Report – LGIS Independent Director –
CONFIDENTIAL**

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Mayor Logan Howlett JP
Seconded: Cr Frank Cvitan JP

That the Flying Minute – Interview Report – LGIS Independent Director be confirmed as a true and correct records of proceedings.

RESOLUTION 438.2/2023

CARRIED

4.4.1 Business arising from the Flying Minute – Interview Report – LGIS Independent Director

Nil.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

- Mayor Logan Howlett JP declared an impartiality interest in items 7.8 Selection Committee Minutes and 7.9 Selection Committee Interview Report – LGIS Non-Metropolitan Local Government Officer.
- Cr Paul Kelly declared an impartiality interest in items 7.7 Flying Minute: Interview Report – LGIS Independent Director, 7.8 Selection Committee Minutes, and 7.9 Selection Committee Interview Report – LGIS Non-Metropolitan Local Government Officer, and a financial interest in item 7.11 LGIS Board Remuneration.
- Annie Riordan declared an interest in item 7.9 Selection Committee Interview Report – LGIS Non-Metropolitan Local Government Officer

6. EMERGING ISSUES

Nil.

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7. MATTERS FOR DECISION

7.1 Best Practice Governance Review – Feedback on Governance Model

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services and Tim Lane, Manager Corporate and Association Governance

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. This report summarising feedback from Members on the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report be received; and
2. Two sets of constitutional changes be developed for consideration by State Council at the July 2023 meeting to be put to the 2023 Annual General Meeting, that:
 - a. Give effect to the revised Model 1, as per the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report; and
 - b. Refine the constitution to address inconsistencies and other issues while maintaining the current governance model.

Executive Summary

- State Council commissioned the Best Practice Governance Review with the appointment of a Steering Committee in March 2022.
- The Steering Committee, which met nine times over the course of the project to date and reported back to State Council several times, finalised its [Final Report](#) in February 2023.
- On the basis of member feedback, the Steering Committee recommended Model 1 as the alternate governance model, which would result in the retention of State Council and Zones and the creation of a Board, with the majority of members elected from and by State Council.
- At their March 2023 meeting, State Council resolved to seek feedback from Members on the proposed model.
- To facilitate feedback from Members, the Final Report was distributed and a webinar was held, which was attended by 48 Local Government leaders;
- Feedback was received from 17 Member Local Governments, with nine Member Local Governments expressing support for the proposed Model 1, and eight Member Local Government outlining concerns with the proposed Model 1 or expressing support for the Current Governance Model.
- Concerns with the proposed Model 1 mostly related to concerns around representation at Board level, including the potential for representational imbalances, and the appointment of independent members, including a suggestion that independent members would be more likely to be metropolitan based.
- Next steps for the project are for two sets of constitutional amendments to be presented to State Council at the July 2023 meeting with the view that these amendments would be presented to Members at the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

Background

In [September 2021](#), State Council requested that a report to State Council be prepared recommending amendment to the [WALGA Constitution](#) “to deal with matters related to State Councillors Candidature for State or Federal Elections”. A report was subsequently prepared for consideration by State Council at the [December 2021](#) meeting which proposed a full review of WALGA’s governance model and processes. Several drivers for the proposed review were identified, namely:

- Based on Member feedback expressing dissatisfaction with the governance arrangements, [WALGA’s Corporate Strategy 2020-2025](#) identified the governance model as a key enabler of performance. Accordingly, a review of the governance model and processes was identified as a key strategic initiative.

- The Constitution has been amended eight times since its adoption in 2001. Similarly, the Corporate Governance Charter has been amended 10 times since its adoption in 2004. With amendments layered onto amendments, often in response to specific issues, the Constitution and Charter have become confusing in places.
- The Minister for Local Government's proposal to remove WALGA from being constituted under the *Local Government Act 1995* could further impact WALGA's governance arrangements.

An indicative timeline was included in the proposal, with the end point being the consideration of Constitutional amendments by State Council and Members at the 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM). State Council endorsed the proposed Governance Review Project as outlined in the report.

A Steering Committee was appointed by State Council in [March 2022](#) to oversee the Governance Review Project. Membership of the Committee comprised of State Council and Local Government sector representatives. Between May and July 2022, the Committee met four times and undertook significant background work including:

- A review of the governance arrangements of other Local Government Associations in Australia and New Zealand;
- A comparison with five membership-based peak body advocacy organisations; and
- The development of overarching Principles within the categories of *Representative, Responsive and Results Oriented* to guide the development and assessment of a possible alternative governance model for WALGA.

State Council were provided with an update on the progress of the Review and the work of the Committee at an Information Forum in August 2022. Later that month, following another meeting of the Steering Committee, State Council endorsed the Governance Principles and AGM Agenda item proposed by the Committee at a [special meeting](#) on 22 August. When the Principles were considered at the [2022 AGM](#) in October, they received almost universal endorsement by WALGA's Members.

Following the endorsement of the Principles at the AGM, the Steering Committee put forward five model options (including the Current Model) as part of a [Consultation Paper](#) for feedback from WALGA's Members. The Consultation Paper was distributed to all Local Governments in October 2022 with feedback requested by 23 December 2022.

State Council were provided with an update on the Review, along with a copy of the Consultation Paper, at the meeting in [December 2022](#).

A total of 99 Council-endorsed submissions were received, representing 71 percent of WALGA's 139 Members. Concurrently, Ipsos was commissioned to undertake independent quantitative and qualitative research to collect feedback from Local Government Elected Members and Chief Executive Officers on the Governance Review, collect comprehensive feedback on the proposed model options, and determine a preference.

The Steering Committees' [Stage Three Final Report](#) (including the results of the consultation process and Ipsos' research) and recommendation, was presented to State Council at the last meeting on [1 March](#). The Committee's recommended direction was progressing with constitutional amendments to give effect to a slightly revised Model 1. At the March meeting, State Council resolved as follows:

That:

1. *The Best Practice Governance Review Stage 3 Final Report be received;*
2. *The proposed changes to WALGA's governance structure as per the revised Model 1, detailed in the Stage 3 Final Report, be noted;*
3. *Members be engaged on the detail of the model and a Final Report be presented to the May 2023 State Council meeting for consideration;*
4. *Any recommendation to the 2023 AGM include Option 5 as the Current Model and Option 1 as an alternative to the Current Model; and*
5. *Subject to points 1, 2, 3 and 4 above, constitutional changes be developed for consideration by State Council.*

As per point 3, feedback was subsequently sought from Members in relation to the proposed model. The Final Report and a [summary document](#) were published on the WALGA website. Email correspondence was sent to all Local Government CEOs on 14 March, and all Elected Members on 17 March, providing links to the Report and requesting feedback on the proposed model.

Elected Members and senior officers were also invited to attend a webinar on 21 March at which WALGA CEO, Nick Sloan and Executive Director Member Services, Tony Brown provided an overview of Council submissions to the Consultation Paper and outlined the Steering Committee's alternate model for consideration, as detailed in the Final Report. 48 attendees joined the webinar, comprising a range of Elected Members and officers from both metropolitan and country Local Governments. A recording of the webinar was distributed to Members on 28 March via LG Direct and can be viewed [here](#).

Articles about the Final Report, proposed model and webinar were included in LG Direct on 14 March, 21 March and 28 March.

As of 31 March, 17 responses were received from Members, providing feedback on the proposed governance model. The responses included both Council-endorsed feedback as well as feedback from individual Elected Members and CEOs. Overall, there were nine responses in support of revised Model 1, and eight responses against.

Comment

Of the responses from 17 members, five members put forward a new or updated position, three of which were in favour of the proposed Model 1, and two expressed concerns regarding the proposed Model 1.

The Shire of Cuballing had previously ranked Model 3 as its most preferred, followed by the Current Model, with Model 1 being ranked fourth. In its feedback, the Shire noted that "whilst [Model 1] was not our first choice, it seems like a reasonable compromise which preserves the strengths of the existing governance structure and delivers an effective Board to run the business".

In its original submission, the Shire of West Arthur ranked the Current Model as its first preference, followed by Model 1 as second preference. In this round of feedback, the Shire of West Arthur resolved to support the revised Model 1.

Following a review of the Final Report, the Shire of Plantagenet also submitted in support of Model 1, having not provided a submission during the original consultation period.

The Shire of Upper Gascoyne submitted that given the uncertainties of the proposed Model 1, they could not support it. The Shire of Upper Gascoyne did not provide a submission during the original consultation period.

Similarly, the Shire of Dumbleyung expressed some concerns about the proposed Model 1 and indicated support for retaining the Current Model. The Shire of Dumbleyung made a submission during the previous consultation period but did not provide a ranking of preferences.

In total, nine of the 17 responses expressed support for the revised Model 1, and all of these responses were submitted as Council endorsed positions.

In addition to the three submissions in support detailed above, six responses in support were from Councils that had ranked Model 1 as their first preference, and so represent a reiteration of their previous feedback:

- Town of Claremont (previously submitted in support of both Model 1 and Model 3);
- Shire of Gnowangerup;
- Shire of Koorda;

- City of Mandurah;
- Shire of Shark Bay; and
- Shire of Waroona.

The remaining eight responses indicated a preference for retaining the Current Model and/or not advancing Model 1 as proposed. These responses included feedback from both individual Elected Members and CEOs, as well as some Council endorsed positions.

In addition to the two responses expressing concerns with the proposed Model 1 above, feedback was received from six Local Governments reiterating their Councils' support for the Current Model, as per the original round of feedback:

- Shire of Cue;
- Shire of Morawa;
- Shire of Murchison;
- Shire of Northampton;
- Shire of Sandstone; and
- Shire of Wagin.

Concerns raised in relation to the proposed Model 1 broadly relate to:

- Representation – that not all Zones will be represented at Board level, and that this could lead to representation imbalances;
- Independent members – including a hypothesis that independent members will be more likely to be based in metropolitan Perth; and
- Questions regarding the rationale for change.

In relation to representation concerns, some respondents suggested that all country representation at Board level could be from the South-West or regional centres, whereas other respondents suggested that country representatives at Board level would be elected to represent regions, and may not be the best people for the role.

In relation to independent members, some respondents suggested that there was a likelihood that independent members would be more likely to be drawn from the metropolitan region. Other respondents reiterated previous submissions suggesting that appointment of independent members should be restricted to only Local Government Elected Members.

The next steps for the project, as per the recommendation, are for two sets of constitutional amendments to be developed and considered by State Council, in accordance with State Council's March 2023 resolution. The first set of constitutional amendments would be to give effect to Model 1, as per the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report. The second set of amendments would be to retain the Current Model and would aim to address inconsistencies and some other issues in the current Constitution.

If both sets of constitutional amendments are supported by State Council with a 75 percent majority in July 2023, the Members will have the opportunity to determine the Association's Governance model at the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

Zone Consideration	
Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Kimberley Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Peel Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Pilbara Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported

CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE

That:

1. This report summarising feedback from Members on the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report be received;
2. Any decision by the Members to alter the governance structure of WALGA be put as a standalone item prior to consideration of constitutional amendments; and
3. Two sets of constitutional changes be developed for consideration by State Council at the July 2023 meeting to be put to the 2023 Annual General Meeting, that:
 - a. Give effect to the revised Model 1, as per the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report; and
 - b. Refine the constitution to address inconsistencies and other issues while maintaining the current governance model.

GASCOYNE COUNTRY ZONE

That:

1. This report summarising feedback from Members on the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report be received; and
2. Two sets of constitutional changes be developed for consideration by State Council at the July 2023 meeting to be put to the 2023 Annual General Meeting, that:
 - a. Give effect to the revised Model 1, as per the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report; and
 - b. Refine the current constitution to address inconsistencies and other issues while maintaining the current governance model.

GREAT SOUTHERN COUNTRY ZONE

That:

1. This report summarising feedback from Members on the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report be received; and
2. Constitutional changes be developed for consideration by State Council at the July 2023 meeting to be put to the 2023 Annual General Meeting, that give effect to the revised Model 1, as per the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report.

MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE

That:

1. This report summarising feedback from Members on the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report be received; and
2. Members attending the 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting be specifically asked, and afforded the opportunity, to determine by vote as to whether they prefer:
 - a. To retain the current structure of governance as set out in Option 5 or in the alternative; and

- b. By a majority of 75% of delegates or their proxy move to the alternate model as set out in Option 1.
3. Two sets of constitutional changes be developed for consideration by State Council at the July 2023 meeting and, depending on the outcome of the determination at Recommendation 2 above, to be put to the 2023 Annual General Meeting, that:
 - a. Give effect to the revised Model 1, as per the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report; or
 - b. Refine the constitution to address inconsistencies and other issues while maintaining the current governance model.

NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE

That, in reference to review and proposed changes to the Governance Structure of WALGA, that Members attending the 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting be specifically asked, and afforded the opportunity, to determine by vote as to whether they prefer to:

1. retain the current structure of governance as set out in Option 5; or
2. move to the alternate model as set out in Option 1.'

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

Central Country, Murchison Country, and Northern Country Zones

The recommendation to put an item to the 2023 seeking a direction from the members on the preferred model ahead of constitutional amendments is noted.

This amendment would determine which set of constitutional changes are to be put to the Annual General Meeting.

The Murchison Zone's request for a decision on this item by a 75 percent majority at the Annual General Meeting would not be in accordance with WALGA's Constitution. Clause 24 (4) of the Constitution states:

Except as provided in this Constitution, all matters considered at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting of the Association shall be passed by a simple majority of the Ordinary Members' delegates or by a duly authorised proxy vote exercised on their behalf.

Great Southern Country Zone

The resolution requesting that only one set of constitutional amendments, relating to Model 1, be put forward to the Annual General Meeting is noted.

The proposal to put two sets of constitutional amendments to the Annual General Meeting is to comply with point 4 of State Council's [March 2023](#) resolution, as per below:

That:

1. *The Best Practice Governance Review Stage 3 Final Report be received;*
2. *The proposed changes to WALGA's governance structure as per the revised Model 1, detailed in the Stage 3 Final Report, be noted;*
3. *Members be engaged on the detail of the model and a Final Report be presented to the May 2023 State Council meeting for consideration;*
4. *Any recommendation to the 2023 AGM include Option 5 as the Current Model and Option 1 as an alternative to the Current Model; and*
5. *Subject to points 1, 2, 3 and 4 above, constitutional changes be developed for consideration by State Council.*

Gascoyne Country Zone

The proposal to add the word 'current' to Part 2(b) of the recommendation is incorporated in the composite recommendation below.

Late Member Feedback

Following the close of the Member consultation period on 31 March, an additional submission was received from the Shire of Mundaring. The Shire reiterated their preference for Option 3.

COMPOSITE RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. This report summarising feedback from Members on the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report be received;
2. Two sets of constitutional changes be developed for consideration by State Council at the July 2023 meeting to be put to the 2023 Annual General Meeting, that:
 - a. Give effect to the revised Model 1, as per the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report; and
 - b. Refine the current constitution to address inconsistencies and other issues while maintaining the current governance model; and
3. An item on which model is supported by the membership be considered prior to any constitutional amendments being put to the Annual General Meeting.

ALTERNATE MOTION

Moved: Cr Les Price
Seconded: President Cr Phil Blight

That:

1. This report summarising feedback from Members on the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report be received;
2. Two sets of constitutional changes be developed for consideration by State Council at the July 2023 meeting to be put to the 2023 Annual General Meeting, that:
 - a. Give effect to the revised Model 1, as per the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report; and
 - b. Refine the current constitution to address inconsistencies and other issues while maintaining the current governance model.

RESOLUTION 439.2/2023

CARRIED

7.2 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' Child Safe Awareness Policy Template

By Susie Moir, Policy Manager Resilient Communities

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

1. Supports the draft Child Safe Awareness Policy Template being provided to Local Governments to assist with their implementation of Recommendation 6.12 of the Royal Commission (Child Safety Officers in Local Government); and
2. Notes the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' commitment to providing ongoing support and resourcing assistance to Local Governments to assist with implementation of the draft Child Safe Awareness Policy Template and other relevant actions relating to child safeguarding, through the Child Safeguarding Implementation Unit.

Executive Summary

- Since 2020, the State Government has consulted with the Local Government sector in relation to Recommendation 6.12 from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Royal Commission), which recommended that Local Governments should designate Child Safety Officers, with support from governments at the National and State level.
- In 2022, the Department of Communities (DoC) facilitated a series of co-design sessions which involved 35 representatives from Local Government, the Commissioner for Children and Young People (CCYP), WALGA, and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) to develop the Child Safe Awareness Policy Template for Local Government (the Policy) to support implementation of Recommendation 6.12.
- The Policy supports initial action by Local Governments in addressing Recommendation 6.12, and forms part of the broader environment of child safe reforms developed out of the findings of the Royal Commission that will impact Local Government.
- DLGSC is seeking WALGA support for the Policy.
- WALGA considers support for the Policy is appropriate but notes that Local Governments will require ongoing support and resourcing assistance consistent with WALGA's *Advocacy Position 3.10.2 Child Safeguarding*.
- WALGA will continue to advocate to the State Government for the Policy to be considered in the context of a broader implementation plan for all the Royal Commission's recommendations relevant to Local Government.

Attachment

- Child Safe Awareness Policy Template for Local Government

Policy Implications

This relates to Advocacy Position 3.10.2 Child Safeguarding:

1. *Local Government supports:*
 - a. *the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse 2017, in particular Recommendation 6.12 which can be achieved by Local Government implementing and embedding child safeguarding across its functions with support from Governments at the national, state and territory levels; and*
 - b. *the ten National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (Australian Human Rights Commission).*

2. *The State Government through an Independent Oversight Body should provide financial, resourcing and capacity building support to Local Governments to implement and embed child safeguarding across its functions, through the provision of:*
 - a. *supporting materials such as template policies, procedures and guidelines;*
 - b. *consistent key messaging and resources to promote and share in venues and facilities and online;*
 - c. *examples of best practice, including case studies;*
 - d. *self-assessment tools to assist Local Government;*
 - e. *ongoing training and skills development for Local Government staff, including online training options;*
 - f. *funding for the delivery of the child safeguarding function within smaller, less well resourced (Tier 3 and Tier 4) Local Governments; and*
 - g. *expert officers within each region to provide support and guidance to Local Government on child safeguarding.*
3. *The Local Government sector supports Local Government participation in the State's National Redress Scheme, with full financial coverage by the State.*

Background

Recommendation 6.12 from the Royal Commission, which was accepted in principle by the State Government in 2018, recommends that Local Governments designate child safety officer positions to carry out a series of functions related to promoting and improving child safety in their communities.

Following feedback from Local Governments (Resolution 199.FM/2021), DoC revised the approach for progressing Recommendation 6.12 to embed child safety across Local Government functions instead of designating a specific child safety officer position. The Minister for Child Protection approved the change in approach to implementing Recommendation 6.12.

In 2022, DoC, in collaboration with DLGSC, commenced the development of a child safe awareness policy template for Local Government as an initial step in fulfilling the State Government's obligation to implement Recommendation 6.12. The Policy Template was developed via a co-design process involving 35 Local Government officers, WALGA representatives and the Commissioner for Children and Young People (CCYP).

The Policy commits Local Governments to a number of policy principles which promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people, including upholding the rights of children and young people; that the safety and best interests of children and young people are a primary consideration when making decisions that concern them; and that communities are informed and involved in promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people, including protection from harm.

In line with Royal Commission recommendation 6.12, the Policy requires Local Governments to complete two policy functions:

1. Develop a process to deliver child safe messages at local government venues, facilities, and events; and
2. Connect local community groups, organisations, and stakeholders to child safe resources.

Comment

In February 2023 DLGSC's Child Safeguarding Implementation Unit presented the draft Policy at a number of WALGA Zone meetings and sought Local Government participants for a pilot program to test the implementation of the Policy. Feedback received from zones was generally positive. The pilot is now underway with six Local Governments. DLGSC have advised that they will use the learnings from the pilot to make adapt or improve the Policy as necessary.

The DLGSC Child Safeguarding Implementation Unit established in 2022 is available to support Local Government and other stakeholders with child safeguarding initiatives. The Unit has developed a range of supporting materials including:

- A list of online child safety resources for Local Governments to provide to organisations, stakeholders and community members.
- Referral pathways information to respond to reports and disclosures of abuse.
- Frequently Asked Questions document.
- Guidelines for promoting child safe messages.
- An implementation checklist.

DLGSC is seeking WALGA State Council's support for the Policy Template. WALGA considers that support is appropriate but notes that Local Governments will require ongoing support and resourcing assistance consistent with WALGA's Advocacy Position 3.10.2 Child Safeguarding.

WALGA will continue to advocate for the establishment of an Independent Oversight Body to provide financial, resourcing and capacity building support to Local Governments to implement and embed child safeguarding across its functions.

Zone Consideration	
Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Kimberley Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Peel Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Pilbara Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported

GASCOYNE COUNTRY ZONE

That the Zone does not support an advocacy position until further information/clarity on the role of Local Government and all potential implications for Local Governments is made available, i.e. the extent of Local Government responsibility and costs.

MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE

WALGA recommendation not supported.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

WALGA's [Advocacy Position](#) on Child Safeguarding provides, inter alia:

3.2.10 Child Safeguarding

Local Government supports... The State Government through an Independent Oversight Body should provide financial, resourcing and capacity building support to Local Governments to implement and embed child safeguarding across its functions, through the provision of:

- supporting materials such as template policies, procedures and guidelines;*
- consistent key messaging and resources to promote and share in venues and facilities and online;*
- examples of best practice, including case studies;*
- self-assessment tools to assist Local Government;*

- e) *ongoing training and skills development for Local Government staff, including online training options;*
- f) *funding for the delivery of the child safeguarding function within smaller, less well resourced (Band 3 and Band 4) Local Governments; and*
- g) *expert officers within each region to provide support and guidance to Local Government on child safeguarding.*

Local Governments seeking further detail about the Template Policy and child safeguarding generally are encouraged to engage with the Child Safeguarding Implementation Unit within the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

The majority of Zones have supported the recommendation.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Tony Dean

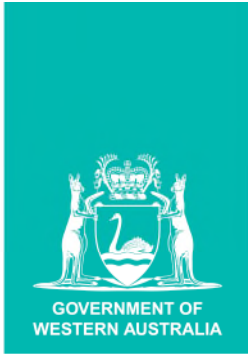
Seconded: Cr Chris Mitchell

That State Council:

- 1. Supports the draft Child Safe Awareness Policy Template being provided to Local Governments to assist with their implementation of Recommendation 6.12 of the Royal Commission (Child Safety Officers in Local Government); and**
- 2. Notes the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' commitment to providing ongoing support and resourcing assistance to Local Governments to assist with implementation of the draft Child Safe Awareness Policy Template and other relevant actions relating to child safeguarding, through the Child Safeguarding Implementation Unit.**

RESOLUTION 440.2/2023

CARRIED



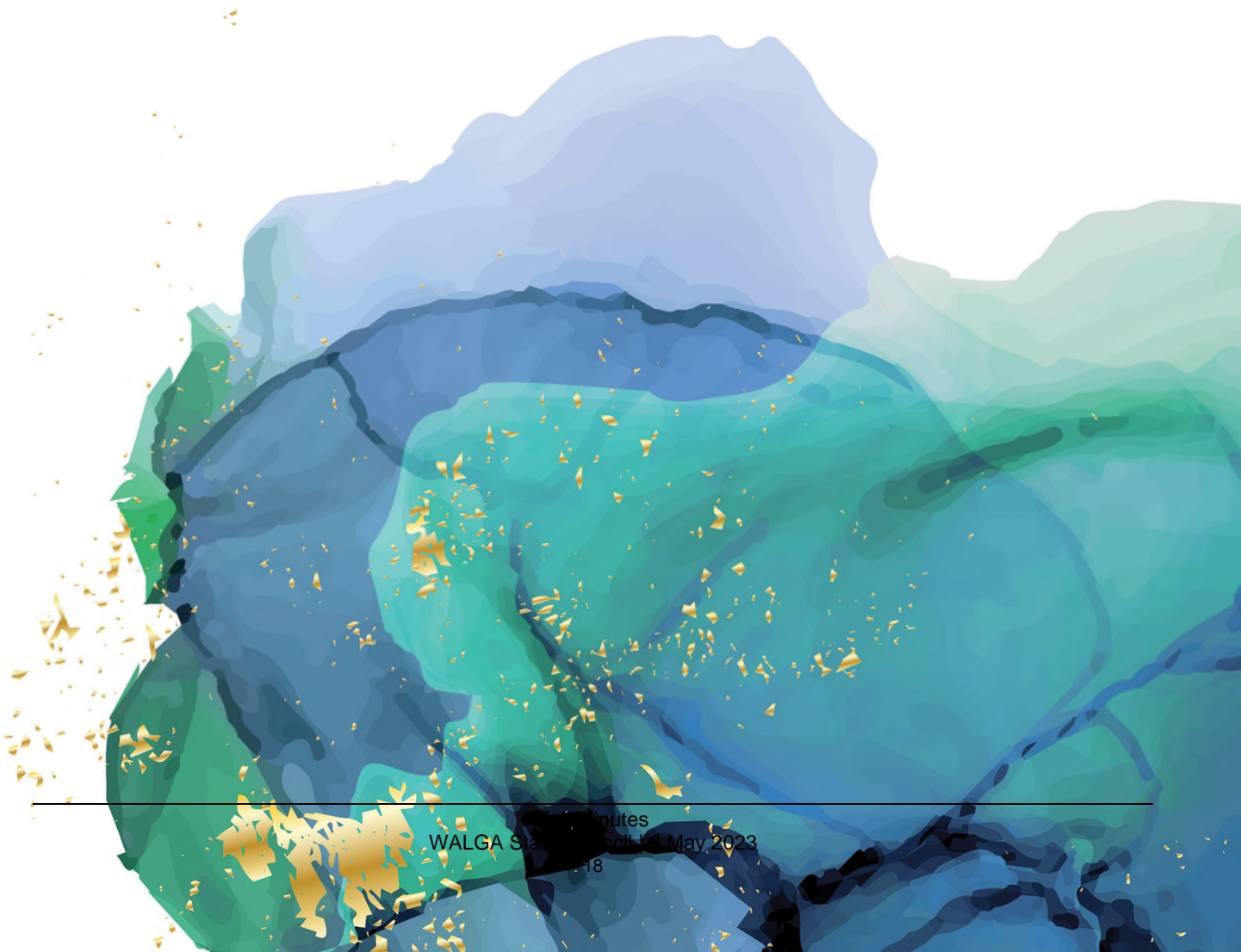
This initiative is part of the WA Government's action to create a Safer WA for Children by implementing the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Item 7.2 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' Child Safe Awareness Policy Template
Attachment: Child Safe Awareness Policy – template for Local Government

Child Safe Awareness Policy

Template for local government

February 2023



Child Safe Awareness Policy

Template for local government

Background

This Child Safe Awareness policy template is focused on the external facing and public role of Western Australian local governments in providing child safe awareness and information for their district and supporting their local communities.

The template was developed in response to Recommendation 6.12 from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and the Royal Commissions recognition of the important role of local governments in community development and community safety, particularly roles that impact on child safety. The Royal Commission identified the opportunity to integrate their direct responsibilities to children and young people within their wider role in the community.

Instructions

This policy template can be used as a guide to develop a Child Safe Awareness Policy that is suited to your organisation.

Three sections of the template have been agreed broadly by local governments and should remain unchanged to provide a state-wide approach and to ensure consistency with the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Royal Commission). The following sections are in 'blue' boxes and should not be changed:

- policy definitions
- policy principles; and
- policy functions

Local governments should adapt the remaining sections of the policy template to suit their local contexts, particularly the sections on scope, roles and responsibilities and related legislation. Instructions and examples for implementing the policy have been included in 'blue' text.

Local governments are strongly encouraged to develop an operational document to accompany the policy template which outlines the responsibilities for particular local government roles in implementing the Policy Functions. Please note that the State Government are producing the materials to be used in completing the Policy Functions including the child safe messages and a list of child safe resources to be provided to local government community groups and organisations.

Please note there are also companion resources available to support the implementation of your local government's Child Safe Awareness policy. Please go to [\[insert link\]](#).

Template

Policy Statement

[Local Government] supports and values all children and young people. [Local Government] makes a commitment to support the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people, including protection from abuse. This Child Safe Awareness policy is one of the ways [Local Government] demonstrates its commitment to being child safe and a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse.

This policy aims to reduce the risk of harm and child sexual abuse in our communities by encouraging child safe environments to be created and maintained. [Local Government] is committed to encouraging local organisations to be child safe and ensure children are safe and empowered.

This Child Safe Awareness policy has been developed in response to recommendation 6.12 of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and recognises that [Local Government] is uniquely placed within the local community to demonstrate leadership by supporting organisations to be child safe and to protect children and young people from harm and/or abuse. [Local Government] will promote the safety and wellbeing of children across the community.

Consistent with the [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#) and [Commonwealth Child Safe Framework](#), this policy provides a framework that outlines the role of [Local Government] in supporting local organisations to be child safe through access to resources, awareness raising and sharing relevant information.

Scope

The safety and wellbeing of children is everyone's responsibility. This Child Safe Awareness policy applies to all, employees, volunteers, trainees, work experience students, interns, and anyone else who undertakes work on behalf of the [Local Government], regardless of their work related to children or young people. It applies to occupants of [Local Government] facilities and venues, including visitors, contractors and suppliers.

Please do not change wording of this section

Definitions

Abuse: Abuse is an act, or a failure to act, towards or on behalf of a child that may result in harm. It can occur on one occasion or multiple occasions. Sometimes the impact of multiple events leads to harm that becomes cumulative in nature. Types of abuse include physical, emotional and sexual abuse, and neglect.

Child/Children: Means a person under 18 years of age, and in the absence of positive evidence as to age, means a person who appears to be under 18 years of age.

Child Safe Organisation: is defined in the Royal Commission Final Report as one that:

- creates an environment where children's safety and wellbeing are at the centre of thought, values, and actions
- places emphasis on genuine engagement with and valuing of children and young people
- creates conditions that reduce the likelihood of harm to children and young people
- creates conditions that increase the likelihood of identifying any harm, and
- responds to any concerns, disclosures, allegations, or suspicions of harm.

Note: in the context of local governments, this would involve referring concerns to the Department of Communities or WA Police to respond as appropriate.

Implementation of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations give effect to the above.

Child safe: For the purpose of this policy, child safe means protecting the rights of children and young people to be safe by taking actions that can help prevent harm and abuse.

Harm: Harm, in relation to a child, means any detrimental effect of a significant nature on the child's wellbeing, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance; or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances.

Wellbeing: Wellbeing of children and young people includes the care, development, education, health and safety of children and young people.

Young person/people: In the context of this policy, young person/people refers to children under the age of 18 who may no longer identify as a child.

Please do not change wording of this section. (Please add in any additional principles that may apply).

Policy Principles

- The rights of children and young people are upheld.
- Children and young people are respected, listened to, and informed about their rights.
- Children and young people have the fundamental right to be safe and cared for.
- Children and young people have the right to speak up, be heard and taken seriously without the threat of negative consequences.
- The safety and best interests of children and young people are a primary consideration when making decisions that concern them.
- Access to trusted and reliable information, including the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, helps support organisations to understand what they must do to help reduce the risk of harm and abuse.
- Communities are informed and involved in promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people including protection from harm.
- Collaboration with the community and our partners promotes the safety, participation and empowerment of all children and young people.

Please do not change wording of this section

Policy Functions

[Local Government] will ensure the following functions of this policy are resourced and assigned to the relevant officers for implementation.

- Developing a process to deliver child safe messages (for example at [Local Government] venues, grounds and facilities or events).
- Connecting and supporting local community groups, organisations, and stakeholders to child safe resources (including culturally safe and inclusive resources).

Responsibilities

[Local Government] has a leadership role in our community to support relevant organisations to be child safe and promote child safe practices.

Although [Local Government] is not legally responsible for providing oversight of compliance with child safe practices, it will take any reasonable steps to engage with persons who utilise [Local Government] facilities to operate in alignment with the Child Safe Awareness policy.

[Local Government] will determine which roles across the organisation will directly support the implementation of the Child Safe Awareness policy.

Related [Local Government] Policies

Include here a list of any local government policies that are relevant to this policy or could be impacted by this policy, for example:

- Aboriginal / First Nations / Cultural Policy
- Child Safety Policy
- Employee Code of Conduct
- Corporate Communications Policy
- Community Signage Policy
- Employee Complaints Management Policy
- Engagement Policy
- Information Technology Policy
- Record Keeping Policy
- Strategic Community Plan
- Strategic and Operational Risk Plans
- Volunteer Policy
- Working with Children Checks Policy
- Youth Policy

Related Legislation and Policy

Include here a list of any legislation or policy frameworks that inform local government requirements, for example:

- *Child Care Services Act 2007*
- *Children and Community Services Act 2004*
- *Civil Liability Act 2002*
- *Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003*
- *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*
- *Freedom of Information Act 1997*
- *Local Government Act 1995*
- National Principles for Child Safety Organisations
- *Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1971*
- *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003r*

- *Public Sector Management Act 1994*
- *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)*
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*
- *Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004*

Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years or upon the introduction of other relevant policy or legislation related to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

Approval

Date:

Version	Date

7.3 Abandoned Shopping Trolleys Advocacy Position

By Lyn Fogg, Governance Specialist

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the following position on Abandoned Shopping Trolleys:

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.

Executive Summary

- Abandoned trolleys in the public domain, create safety hazards for pedestrian and vehicular traffic and negatively impact public amenity and the natural environment.
- Some retailers prioritise their civic and social responsibilities, however the cost of physically retrieving illegally dumped trolleys is now substantially more than the cost of replacing trolleys.
- The absence of economic or legally enforceable imperative means retailers are increasingly not responding to this issue within reasonable timeframes, if at all.
- In response to community expectations, Local Governments bear the increasing cost burden to remove, impound and eventually dispose of abandoned trolleys.
- The [Public Spaces \(Unattended Property\) Act 2021 \(NSW\)](#), presents an example of how legislation can be used to address issues arising from shopping trolleys.

Policy Implications

State Council's adoption of the recommendation will create a new Advocacy Position.

Background

At the [WALGA 2022 AGM](#) (Item 3.12.1) the following resolution was passed:

3.12.1 Abandoned Shopping Trolleys

That this meeting supports the recent petition to be tabled in the Legislative Council, Parliament of Western Australia, "Removal and Abandonment of Shopping Trolleys 22-0017" calling on the State Government to implement stringent and uniform shopping trolley containment laws for the whole state of Western Australia.

The AGM resolution refers to a petition by the Spearwood Progress Association that was tabled in the WA Parliament's Legislative Council on 22 November 2022:

We are seeking uniform and stringent shopping trolley containment state laws.

1. Investigate the effectiveness of the current local government act in addressing abandoned shopping trolleys
2. Engage with retail stakeholders and shopping centres to investigate current practices
3. Investigate other states/territories and if necessary overseas jurisdictions' current measures/practices to circumvent this issue
4. Recommend the implementation of stringent and uniform shopping trolley containment laws for the whole of Western Australia.

Local Government and community concerns regarding abandoned shopping trolleys have been ongoing over many decades, for example:

- WALGA prepared a discussion paper in 2005, that underpinned development of strategies and establishment of a Working Group.
- The WALGA Working Group included Local Government and retailer representatives and facilitated a number of agreed initiatives to address the issue, before it was disbanded in 2008.
- In 2016, the WALGA Waste and Environment Team prepared a Background Paper titled, “[Shopping Trolley Illegal Dumping](#)”, which provided recommendations on ways for Local Governments to respond to illegal dumping of shopping trolleys.
- In 2021, the matter was again raised by the East Metropolitan Zone and at that time in the absence of any other initiatives, the Governance and Organisational Policy Team resolved to advise the Zone “*that the best way to address this issue is for each Local Government to work with their retailers*”.

Due to the decreasing cost of replacement, retailers are less likely to reclaim impounded trolleys, resulting in Local Government and community bearing the further cost of disposal, which is considerable given the bulky nature of trolley’s making them difficult to collect, store and dispose of. As an indication of the scale of the problem, metropolitan Local Governments indicate they have at times held several thousand uncollected impounded trolleys.

The [WALGA 2022 AGM](#) resolution above was referred by State Council at its meeting held [7 December 2022](#), to the Governance and Organisational Service Policy Team, which further considered the New South Wales [Public Spaces \(Unattended Property\) Act 2021 \(NSW\)](#), effective November 2022, enacted in response to similar problems associated with abandoned shopping trolleys and other abandoned property.

The NSW legislation provides local governments, other public land managers and police in New South Wales with stronger powers and enforcement mechanisms to deal with unattended or abandoned property, including shopping trolleys, unregistered /abandoned cars, trailers, share bikes and eRidables and stray animals. The law also provides for:

- stronger regulatory and enforcement powers to deal with property left unattended in public
- higher penalties for offences
- greater ability to recover regulatory costs from those responsible
- greater flexibility to temporarily store or care for unattended items and animals
- reduced costs for compliance and storage
- easier way to work with other authorities across jurisdictional boundaries
- better way to deal with stock animals in emergencies

The NSW Government has provided implementation guidance to its Local Government sector, including a period up to 1 May 2023 where warnings, instead of infringements, will be issued.

Comment

Local Governments in WA are limited in the scope of responsibility and enforcement that it can place on retailers through local laws. In the absence of capacity to make suitable local laws, the sector will benefit from the introduction of laws made by State Parliament that will have universal effect in WA.

The New South Wales [Public Spaces \(Unattended Property\) Act 2021](#), provides an example of a robust regulatory framework which could inform development of a Western Australian legislative instrument, that also addresses other forms of unattended property.

Zone Consideration	
Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Gascoyne Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Kimberley Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Murchison Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Peel Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Pilbara Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported

CENTRAL METROPOLITAN ZONE

That the Central Metropolitan Zone in relation to State Council item 7.3 move the following amendment:

The Local Government Sector advocates for State Government to consult with the Sector and prioritise legislative reforms that incentivise customers and 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.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

The Central Metropolitan Zone amendment is noted. Legislative reforms may not be necessary for incentive programs to be introduced. All other Zones have supported the recommendation.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Russ Fishwick JP
Seconded: Cr Catherine Ehrhardt

That State Council endorse the following position on Abandoned Shopping Trolleys:

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.

RESOLUTION 441.2/2023

CARRIED

7.4 Speed Management Reform Advocacy Position

By Terri-Anne Pettet, Manager Road Safety

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the Speed Management Advocacy Position as follows, be endorsed:

1. ***That WALGA supports Local Governments wishing to manage travel speeds, including speed limit changes, as a means of achieving the many health, social and environmental benefits for communities.***
2. ***That Main Roads WA (MRWA) retain the overarching authority for speed limit setting/zoning.***
3. ***That Main Roads WA speed zoning policies and processes be reformed so that Local Governments are more influential in the determination of speed limit decreases or increases for local roads.***
 - a. ***This will include applications that are deemed to be approved when the application:***
 - i. ***is based on assessments by competent Local Government practitioners,***
 - ii. ***contains evidence-based identification of the benefits,***
 - iii. ***contains preliminary designs for infrastructure safety upgrades associated with applications to increase speed limits, and***
 - iv. ***includes an engagement strategy for managing community and stakeholder expectations.***
 - b. ***Allows for Main Roads WA to decline an application, within a mutually agreed timeframe, on the basis that it:***
 - i. ***does not meet the above criteria, and***
 - ii. ***provides specific evidence for declining the application.***
4. ***That WALGA seeks to work with Main Roads WA and other stakeholders, to develop a speed management guide for Local Governments.***

Executive Summary

- WALGA's existing policy on speed management is narrow in scope and is inadequate for advocating the varying needs of the Local Government sector.
- Speed management is an important tool for Local Governments, for managing the safety performance of local roads and to help create healthy, vibrant, and connected communities.
- Changing speed limits is an important element of speed management but the application process can be difficult and Local Governments currently have limited influence in the determination of speed limit changes on local roads.
- A contemporary advocacy position on speed management will enable WALGA to advocate for reforms that are needed to better reflect the diverse needs of Local Governments and enable effective and responsible management of travel speeds on local roads.

Attachment

- [Local Government Principles for Speed Management Reform Discussion Paper](#)

Policy Implications

WALGA's existing advocacy position in relation to speed stems from consultation with Local Governments undertaken in the early 2000s. The position, first adopted in 2005 and reinforced in 2022, refers only to the State default open road speed limit (see position 5.2.3 in the [Advocacy Positions Manual](#)). This item recommends broadening the existing position.

Background

Speed management is an important tool for Local Governments to prevent road trauma, improve traffic flows, reduce noise and air pollution, encourage active travel, and decrease the climate change impacts of road transport.

The setting of speed limits is a key element of any effective speed management strategy. Changing the speed limit is a relatively quick, cost-effective treatment to manage travel speeds, yet in Western Australia the process can be onerous, challenging and ineffective for Local Governments.

Currently Local Governments must apply to Main Roads WA (MRWA) to have speed zones changed (*Road Traffic Code 2000*). Following feedback from Local Governments about the barriers experienced when seeking to amend speed zones, WALGA conducted a survey to further explore the issues that were being reported. In summary, the following conclusions were drawn from the 2021 survey:

- one third (35%) of respondents found the process difficult and one half (49%) of applications took more than six months, indicating that there is an opportunity for the process to be streamlined;
- more applications for speed zone amendments (where Local Governments received a determination) were rejected (45%) than approved (30%), suggesting that local knowledge and context may not be given adequate consideration. Furthermore, the current processes in Western Australia do not meet global best practice in terms of local authorities having the ability to modify speed limits.

Based on those conclusions, a [discussion paper](#) was circulated in December 2022. Feedback was received from six Local Governments. The feedback collected showed general agreement with the following principles:

- the need to develop a contemporary Local Government policy position on speed management;
- that Local Governments be better positioned to influence speed management policy and practice;
- that Local Governments be respected for the application of responsible and effective speed management practices; and
- an assessment methodology, with clear guidelines that also includes ways to communicate with communities about speed limit changes should be developed for Local Governments.

Comment

The current WALGA advocacy position on speed is limited as it was developed in response to a simplistic question about a complex topic. It is no longer adequate for either responding or proactively advocating appropriately to reflect the diverse needs of Local Governments in managing road networks for the communities of Western Australia.

Changing (decreasing or increasing) speed limits is one element of speed management, however institutional barriers for Local Governments have been identified. This involves the application process and the way in which MRWA (as the speed zoning authority) implements their speed zoning policy.

The overarching premise of this recommended advocacy position is that Local Governments are in a better position to understand the complex mix of community needs and the unique local circumstances that are important in determining speed limits on lower volume local roads. MRWA is responsible and experienced at managing high volume, fast moving urban and rural roads (highways), however it is not feasible for MRWA to understand and take into consideration all the local circumstances and desired health, social and environmental improvements of each community, when determining speed limits on local roads.

Furthermore, the recommendations align with the objectives of the other policies and strategies:

1. WA State Infrastructure, Recommendation 63 to provide enhanced cycling and walking infrastructure;
2. [WA Active Mobility Strategy](#); and
3. [The Declining Rate of Walking and Riding to School](#).

A contemporary Local Government advocacy position will enable WALGA to advocate for reforms in speed management that more appropriately reflect the diverse needs of the sector.

Zone Consideration	
Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Gascoyne Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Kimberley Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Murchison Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Peel Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Pilbara Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported

SOUTH WEST COUNTRY ZONE

That the Speed Management Advocacy Position as follows, be endorsed:

1. *That WALGA supports Local Governments wishing to manage travel speeds, including speed limit changes, as a means of achieving the many health, social and environmental benefits for communities.*
2. *That Main Roads WA (MRWA) retain the overarching authority for speed limit setting/zoning.*
3. *That Main Roads WA speed zoning policies and processes be reformed so that Local Governments are more influential in the determination of speed limit decreases or increases for local roads.*
 - a. *This will include applications that are deemed to be approved when the application:*
 - i. *is based on assessments by competent Local Government practitioners,*
 - ii. *contains evidence-based identification of the benefits,*
 - iii. *contains preliminary designs for infrastructure safety upgrades associated with applications to increase speed limits, and*
 - iv. *includes an engagement strategy for managing community and stakeholder expectations, and provides a greater weighting for community views on speed changes.*
 - b. *Allows for Main Roads WA to decline an application, within a mutually agreed timeframe, on the basis that it:*
 - i. *does not meet the above criteria, and*
 - ii. *provides specific evidence for declining the application.*
4. *That WALGA seeks to work with Main Roads WA and other stakeholders, to develop a speed management guide for Local Governments.*

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

There are diverse, often polarising community views concerning travel speed. Local Government is likely to be more influential through broadening the factors that are considered in speed limit setting and evidence of their application in each situation.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Ken Seymour
Seconded: President Cr Chris Pavlovich

That the Speed Management Advocacy Position as follows, be endorsed:

1. *That WALGA supports Local Governments wishing to manage travel speeds, including speed limit changes, as a means of achieving the many health, social and environmental benefits for communities.*
2. *That Main Roads WA (MRWA) retain the overarching authority for speed limit setting/zoning.*
3. *That Main Roads WA speed zoning policies and processes be reformed so that Local Governments are more influential in the determination of speed limit decreases or increases for local roads.*
 - a. *This will include applications that are deemed to be approved when the application:*
 - i. *is based on assessments by competent Local Government practitioners,*
 - ii. *contains evidence-based identification of the benefits,*
 - iii. *contains preliminary designs for infrastructure safety upgrades associated with applications to increase speed limits, and*
 - iv. *includes an engagement strategy for managing community and stakeholder expectations.*
 - b. *Allows for Main Roads WA to decline an application, within a mutually agreed timeframe, on the basis that it:*
 - i. *does not meet the above criteria, and*
 - ii. *provides specific evidence for declining the application.*
4. *That WALGA seeks to work with Main Roads WA and other stakeholders, to develop a speed management guide for Local Governments.*

RESOLUTION 442.2/2023

CARRIED

7.5 State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement 2023/24 to 2027/28

By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager, Infrastructure

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the State Roads Funds to Local Government Agreement 2023/24 – 2027/28 be endorsed.

Executive Summary

- The State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement (Agreement) provides funding for Local Governments to improve and maintain the local road network.
- The new Agreement continues to provide 20% of vehicle license fee revenue collected by the State Government to be applied to Local Government roads and paths.
- The proposed Agreement is for a five-year term from 2023/24 to 2027/28.
- The overall structure and intent of the Agreement remains largely unchanged from the previous Agreement.
- Commitments to road safety, aboriginal employment and recycled materials have been expanded.
- The Agreement was developed through consultation with Local Government members of the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee (SAC), Main Roads WA and Regional Road Group representatives.

Attachment

- State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement 2023/24 to 2027/28

Policy Implications

In the context of establishing advocacy positions for a new *Local Government Act*, WALGA State Council resolved that the Government returns to Local Government at least 27 percent of motor vehicle licence fee collections. The State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement 2018/19 to 2022/23 was endorsed by State Council in 2018.

Budgetary Implications

The Agreement fully funds the WALGA Transport and Roads program and approximately 20% of the RoadWise program.

Background

The State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement (Agreement) provides an allocation of funds to Local Governments in Western Australia. The amount of funding is based on a percentage of the vehicle license fee revenue collected by the State Government. This Agreement is the sixth such agreement between State and Local Government in Western Australia. It builds on previous funding and administrative arrangements negotiated in 1995, 2000, 2005, 2011 and in 2018. The funding arrangements provide Local Government with some surety in funding for the term of the Agreement and delegated decision-making responsibility for prioritizing investment in each region.

The Agreement has been developed through consultation with Local Government members of the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee, Main Roads WA and Regional Road Group representatives. The WALGA President and CEO have met with the Minister for Transport; Planning; Ports who has expressed support for the Agreement. All parties acknowledged the value of the Agreement which remains a unique arrangement in Australia.

The Agreement is subject to endorsement by WALGA State Council and State Cabinet.

Comment

The overall structure and intent of the proposed Agreement remains essentially the same as the current Agreement. The following content is highlighted:

1. The Agreement is proposed to run for a five-year period from 2023/24 to 2027/28.
2. The proposed Agreement will provide a 20% allocation of the vehicle license fee revenue collected by the State Government.
3. The Agreement is projected to provide the following annual allocations for Local Government roads and paths:

2023/24	\$245 million
2024/25	\$258 million
2025/26	\$271 million
2026/27	\$284 million
2027/28	\$297 million

4. Under the terms of the Agreement, Local and State Governments commit to:
 - Increasing the application of the Safe System for road safety approach to the Local Road network.
 - Providing opportunities for the employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
 - Increasing sustainable road construction practices through the greater use recycled materials.

Within the first two years of this Agreement, Main Roads WA, WALGA and Regional Road Groups will collaborate to establish a system(s)/process(es) for monitoring, reporting, and advancing these commitments.

5. WALGA continues to seek an increase in the share of licence fee revenue available for local roads and path projects. The Government is not prepared to vary the funding arrangements at this time. In the year ending June 2022, \$45.9 million (18%) of the budget funding was carried forward including \$31.2 million for projects being delivered by Local Governments. Based on anticipated revenue increases, annual funding to the Agreement is forecast to increase 21% over the term of the Agreement. The forecast funding is \$1,355 million over five years, which is a 32% increase on the previous five year agreement.
6. The Minister identified that funding for active travel infrastructure would continue to be prioritized in the State Initiatives sub-program.

Zone Consideration	
Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Gascoyne Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Kimberley Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Murchison Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Peel Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Pilbara Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Chris Pavlovich
Seconded: President Cr Michelle Rich

That the State Roads Funds to Local Government Agreement 2023/24 – 2027/28 be endorsed.

RESOLUTION 443.2/2023

CARRIED



WALGA



mainroads
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**Item 7.5 State Road Funds to Local
Government Agreement 2023/24 to 2027/28**
Attachment: State Road Funds to Local
Government Agreement 2023/24 to 2027/28

*We're working for
Western Australia.*

State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement

2023/24 to 2027/28

State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement to Western Australian Local Governments

This Agreement is the 6th Agreement between State and Local Government in Western Australia. The continuation of the Agreement demonstrates the strength of the relationship between the two spheres of Government and the value delivered by the Agreement.

Since the inaugural Agreement of this type in 1995-96 this arrangement has been of enormous significance to both State and Local Government in Western Australia. As with past Agreements, it provides certainty and a collaborative approach which supports both levels of Government to meet the challenge of maintaining and improving the State and Local Road Network.

This Agreement is based on the equivalent of 20% of motor vehicle licence fee collections, being allocated to assist with the improvement and maintenance of the Local Government road network.

In addition to the direct funding under this Agreement, the State Government's commitment to fund other works on the local road network is acknowledged.

The continuing management role of Regional Road Groups, with the support of Main Roads Western Australia and the Western Australian Local Government Association, is important to ensure that funds under this Agreement are allocated to road works which best meet regional needs. Regional Road Groups help ensure local involvement in the decision-making process of how these funds are applied.

The State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement will continue to deliver positive outcomes for all Western Australians. We look forward to building on past successes and working collaboratively to deliver a quality and safe road network.

Hon. Mark McGowan MLA
Premier of Western Australia

Cr Karen Chappel
**President, Western Australian
Local Government Association**

Preamble

The 2023-24 to 2027-28 State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement builds upon previous funding and administrative arrangements negotiated between the State and Local Government dating back to 1995. This Agreement provides Local Government with greater surety in funding for the duration of the Agreement. It also reinforces the strong working relationship between Local Government, the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) and the State Government through Main Roads Western Australia.

Local Governments in Western Australia manage 127,000 km of roads and 15,000 km of sealed paths on which 40% of travel occurs. This network connects with 18,000 km of State roads and principal shared paths, ports, airports and public transport services. Cooperation and coordination between the State and Local Government is central to delivering liveable communities with equitable access to work, education, goods and services as well as providing efficient supply chains for business.

There is a recognised need for co-operation and coordination between agencies with an interest in the road network. This helps to ensure that the most efficient and effective use can be made of the limited funds available for roads and that the best possible outcomes are achieved.

The Agreement does not set out all the matters in the relationship between the State and Local Government regarding roads but focuses on the allocation of this Agreement's financial resources by the State Government to Local Government road infrastructure and sets out the broad parameters in relation to the allocation of those financial resources.

Nevertheless, it is intended that Main Roads Western Australia and WALGA, through the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee, will continually consider policy and make improvements that will take into account the needs of WA's total road network.

State Road Funds to Local Government Procedures detail requirements in relation to aspects of administering, distributing and accounting for the allocation and expenditure of funds for Local Government roads provided under this Agreement.

1. Guiding Principles

The State Government, through Main Roads Western Australia, and Local Government, through its peak body, WALGA, will give elected Local Government representatives an opportunity to participate in determining the preservation and expansion needs of the Local Government road network, together with traffic management and road safety projects, from both a regional and state-wide perspective.

The funds within this Agreement, as outlined in Section 5, are allocated across Western Australia, focusing on areas of strategic importance and areas that will help provide maximum benefit to communities. The needs of all road users and the Western Australian community will be considered during the allocation process.

In reaching this Agreement, the State Government, WALGA, and Main Roads Western Australia are committed to the principles of:

- Promoting and applying the Safe System for road safety to road infrastructure.
- Facilitating the efficient movement of freight and people.
- Autonomy of Local Government in the allocation of road funding based on locally and regionally identified priorities, and principles agreed by Main Roads Western Australia and WALGA.
- Sharing revenue from vehicle registrations in proportions agreed between the State Government and WALGA.
- Recognition of the partnership required for delivering projects funded within this program.
- Greater funding certainty for Local Government for the term of the Agreement,
- Continuation of the successful partnership between State Government and Local Government to preserve and enhance the State's vital road network, and
- Good asset management practices.

As such it is expected that the outcomes from investments through this Agreement contribute to, and support, key State Government policy objectives, including:

- A 50 to 70% reduction in the number of people killed, severely or seriously injured in road crashes by 2030 (Driving Change Road Safety Strategy 2020-2030).
- Increasing opportunities and markets for aboriginal employees and businesses (Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy Western Australia 2012-2029).
- Continuing to move towards a more sustainable road industry including greater use of recycled materials.
- A reduction in Construction and Demolition waste generation per capita of 15% by 2025 and 30% by 2030 (Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030).
- Growing a stronger and more diverse economy (Diversify WA).
- Easy movement of people and freight across the sub-regions and beyond, a key to economic development and regional liveability (Perth and Peel @ 3.5 million).
- Net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 through a multimodal transport system that promotes sustainable behaviour (WA Climate Change Policy; WA Bicycle Network Plan; Active Travel to Schools Roadmap 2021 - 2030).

2. Commitments

As part of this Agreement, Local and State Governments commit to:

- Increasing the application of the Safe System for road safety approach to the Local Road network.
- Providing opportunities for the employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Increasing sustainable road construction practices through the greater use recycled materials.

2.1 Road Safety

The National Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030 is owned by Infrastructure and Transport Minister, representing all jurisdictions together with the Australian Local Government Association representing the local government sector. The Strategy articulates responsibilities for all levels of government and aims to demonstrate that zero deaths and serious injuries on our roads can be achieved. The National Strategy targets are that by 2030:

- The annual number of fatalities will be reduced by at least 50%, or approximately 55% of rate per capita
- The annual number of serious injuries will be reduced by at least 30%, or approximately 38% of rate per capita

Road safety improvements implemented during past decades did reduce trauma on WA roads; however, WA's trend for reductions in death and serious injury is starting to plateau. Notably, for the six year period 2016-2021 just over 50% (461) of WA road fatalities occurred on local roads in WA. Therefore, the National and State targets will only be achieved with practical and tangible actions to improve road safety on the entire WA road network.

Within the first two years of this Agreement Main Roads, WALGA and RRGs will collaborate to establish a system(s) / process(s) for monitoring, reporting, and advancing Safe System treatments and a Safe Systems approach focusing, but not limited to, LGA works funded within this Agreement.

Based on the above work the parties will work to determine and, where practical, implement the next steps to further advance Road Safety.

2.2 Aboriginal Employment

Low employment rates for Indigenous Australians contributes to economic and social disadvantage and hardship. Meaningful employment provides financial and economic security, improves outcomes for health, social and emotional wellbeing and living standards. Meaningful employment provides economic independence that can enable Indigenous Australians to explore their own aspirations and achieve self-determination.

Consistent with the Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap established between the Commonwealth Government, State and Territory Governments and the Australian Local Government Association, WA has a commitment to the Closing the Gap targets.

The WA Closing the Gap Jurisdictional Implementation Plan highlights that local government is integral to achieving Closing the Gap objectives and that it is vital that State agencies and local governments work together

This Agreement will provide funding support to nudge Foundation. Nudge have demonstrated excellence in sourcing and supporting, aboriginal trainees and apprentices in civil construction and other industries. This provides the individuals with sustainable employment and the industry access to skilled employees

Within the first two years of this Agreement Main Roads, WALGA and RRGs will collaborate to establish a system(s) / process(s) for monitoring and reporting Aboriginal Employment focusing, but not limited to, LGA works funded within this Agreement.

Based on the above work the parties will work to determine and, where practical, implement the next steps to further advance Aboriginal Employment.

2.3 Recycled Materials

WA's Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 sets targets of increasing material recovery to 70% by 2025 and to 75% by 2030. The strategy notes that construction and demolition waste make up approximately 50% of WA's waste and represents a significant opportunity for material recovery. Demolition waste can be diverted to become products such as crushed concrete.

When considering the use of recycled materials within works there will be a focus on the State Government's initiative of Road to Reuse materials.

It is acknowledged that in WA the industry is still developing. Therefore, this Agreement will have an initial focus on crushed recycled concrete and crumbed rubber products.

Within the first two years of this Agreement Main Roads Western Australia, WALGA and RRGs will collaborate to establish a system(s) / process(s) for monitoring, reporting and advancing the use of recycled materials focusing, but not limited to, LGA works funded within this Agreement.

Based on the above work the parties will work to determine and, where practical, implement the next steps to further advance the use of recycled materials.

3. State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee

The State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee (SAC) will oversee, monitor, and endorse to the Honourable Minister for Transport, via the Managing Director Main Roads, the allocation of State funds under this Agreement.

SAC will set in place and be responsible for the overarching policy and procedures covering the administration and functioning of the Agreement. Regional Road Groups (RRGs) are responsible for developing regional specific policies and procedures within the overarching framework to suit local circumstances.

The membership of SAC is to be made up of the Managing Director of Main Roads as Chairperson, the Chief Executive Officer of WALGA or their nominee, four representatives as nominated by WALGA and four Main Roads Western Australia officers as nominated by Main Roads.

4. Regional Road Groups

Membership of Regional Road Groups is to comprise elected Local Government representatives (Councillors and/or Commissioners as appointed under the *Local Government Act 1995* from time to time) with all Local Governments being represented.

RRGs may establish Sub-Groups and/or Technical Advisory Groups to suit regional conditions. The Sub-Groups will comprise of Local Government elected representatives (Councillors and/or Commissioners as appointed under the *Local Government Act 1995* from time to time) and will provide delegates to represent the Sub-Group at the RRGs.

RRGs will make recommendations to the SAC in relation to the Annual Local Roads Program and other issues. This may include advice relating to State Black Spot Programs, amendments to the Roads 2040 Strategy or its updated equivalent document, the Functional Road Hierarchy and three (3) year works projections.

5. Funding

5.1 Funding sources

On an annual basis, the share of State road funds to be allocated on Local Government roads will be equivalent to 20% of the State Budget estimated motor vehicle licence fees (MVLFF) for that year. In the event of a State Government revenue policy initiative to reduce vehicle licence fees and recover road user charges through alternative mechanisms, this percentage will be adjusted to ensure that the reduction to vehicle licence fees is revenue neutral to Local Government.

Recognising that road projects may extend over several years, the parties acknowledge that actual revenue and expenditure may not be equal on a yearly basis and there may be a carry over or advancement of funds between years.

Funding under the Agreement is split into two categories: Local Government Managed Programs (Category 1) and Main Roads Western Australia Managed Programs (Category 2). This Agreement is projected to produce annual allocations from State road funds to Local Government roads for the years 2023/24 to 2027/28 as per the following schedule:

2023/24	\$245 million
2024/25	\$258 million
2025/26	\$271 million
2026/27	\$284 million and
2027/28	\$297 million

The above allocations are based on the 2022/23 State Budget and Forward Estimates of motor vehicle licence fees. They are indicative and are subject to adjustment as each State Budget Year estimate is approved.

During the life of the Agreement, management of State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement funding will continue to be examined to manage annual carryover of funds. Any structural change to the way the funds are managed will require the agreement of the State Advisory Committee (SAC).

5.2 Funding Allocation Categories

The revenue determined in section 5.1 is to be distributed to Local Government roads on the basis of:

Local Government Managed Programs (Category 1): 67%

- Strategic and Technical Support
- Direct Grants
- Road Project Grants
- State Black Spot
- Remote Aboriginal Access Roads

Main Roads western Australia Managed Programs (Category 2): 33%

- Traffic Management, Signs and Pavement Markings
- Bridgeworks and Inspections
- State Initiatives on Local Roads
- Regional Road Group Support

The allocation to the Categories and subcategories will move in line with the total Agreement pool or as otherwise approved by SAC.

Local Government Managed Programs (Category 1):

5.2.1 Strategic and Technical Support

Strategic and Technical Support funds are provided for the following:

- Municipal infrastructure needs, development, evaluation & research.
- Provision and analysis of crash statistics and road safety data for RRGs.
- WALGA RoadWise program.
- WA Local Government Grants Commission support.
- nudge
- Other activities as identified or agreed by SAC.

5.2.2 Direct Grants

Direct Grants are allocated for routine maintenance of Local Government roads. Direct Grants are to be allocated to Local Governments on an annual basis using the Asset Preservation Model formula provided by the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission.

To qualify for Direct Grant allocations, Local Governments must provide a Certificate of Completion to the Main Roads Western Australia Regional Office (Regional Road Group Secretariate) certifying that the previous year's allocation has been expended for routine maintenance on roads in their district.

Funding of Direct Grants is base-lined at 13.2% of State road funds provided under this Agreement. Direct Grant allocations are subject to annual adjustment for Gazetted road classification transfers (State Roads to Local Government Roads and vice versa). Adjustments will be based on the outputs of the Asset Preservation Model, which are agreed to by SAC and will be made in the following year.

5.2.3 Road Project Grants

After deducting funding for Commodity Routes, Road and Bridge Condition Data and Road Safety Upgrades, the Road Project Grant pool is to be distributed on the basis of 36% to the Metropolitan Regional Road Group and 64% to Rural Regional Road Groups.

The methodology for allocating funds to Rural Regional Road Groups for road projects is to be based on 75% of the Asset Preservation Model and 25% population factor.

Preservation work (periodic maintenance) may be considered for Road Project Grant Funding by RRGs.

Road project grants are to be distributed to projects on a priority basis using a process that is agreed to by the Regional Road Group and endorsed by SAC. These allocations are provided on a cost sharing basis of \$2 from Road Project Grant funds to \$1 from Local Government funds. SAC may consider variations in exceptional circumstances.

Regional Road Groups can allocate Road Project Grants for road related projects (e.g. street lighting) provided they are on roads of Regional significance, are prioritised against other road projects within the Region and prior approval is obtained from SAC.

5.2.3.1 Commodity Routes

Commodity Routes are defined as routes where there is a significantly high priority transport task associated with the transport of a commodity such as, but not limited to, grain, timber, agricultural lime or iron ore. The funding is intended for roads that require upgrading or maintenance to

accommodate the commodity transport function. Periodic maintenance and rehabilitation projects will be favoured in the prioritisation process.

Projects will be assessed according to the Commodity Routes Fund Application and Assessment Guidelines. Projects that are not eligible for Road Project Grant funding will receive priority in the assessment process. A Technical Review Group (TRG) comprising members from WALGA and Main Roads will call for project proposals via the RRGs. The TRG will assess and prioritise the proposals and make recommendations to SAC for approval. Allocations will be provided on a cost sharing basis of \$2 from the Commodity Route Fund and \$1 from Local Government funds. SAC may approve other special contributory arrangements on the recommendation of the RRG.

5.2.3.2 Road and Bridge Condition Data Collection Fund

An amount of \$500 000 will be set aside annually from the Road Project Grant allocation primarily for the assessment of the condition of the regionally significant Local bituminous sealed roads as defined in the Roads 2040 (or later) strategy.

The amount shall be used to conduct visual condition assessments of the regionally significant Local road roads in accordance with the WALGA Visual Defects Assessment Manual or other agreed methodology. The Fund may also be used to perform Level 1 bridge inspections.

In consultation with Regional Road Groups, WALGA and Main Roads Western Australia will manage the program. The funds shall be allocated on the basis that every significant road is assessed a minimum of once every five years. The entire annual allocation may be granted to a grouping of regions each year to facilitate the most economically efficient data collection strategy. The data must be provided annually to Main Roads in an agreed format and may be used to assess the condition of the road network at a Regional and State level.

5.2.4 State Blackspot

Funding provided under the State Blackspot Program on Local Roads is to target reducing road trauma on the road network. Funding decisions within the program will continue be informed by crash history or likelihood risk of crashes occurring. The program shall be managed in accordance with the Local Government Procedures and the State Blackspot Program Guidelines and may include the funding of systems/procedures or other works which assist in the process of reducing road trauma.

5.2.5 Remote Aboriginal Community Access Roads

Of the Untied Commonwealth funds provided for Local Government roads and distributed by the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission (excluding Roads to Recovery funding), 7% is set aside for Special Projects and 1/3 of 7% is provided for access roads serving Aboriginal Communities.

These funds are supplemented by a minimum matching contribution of \$1 from the State for every \$2 provided under the Commonwealth Grant Scheme.

The State Government may also provide additional funds towards the Program above its matching contribution for specific projects.

The Indigenous Roads Committee establishes funding criteria and makes funding recommendations.

Main Roads Western Australia managed programs (Category 2):

5.2.6 Traffic Management, Signs and Pavement Markings

Traffic Management includes rail crossings and traffic control signals. Traffic Signs and Pavement Markings includes longitudinal road markings, regulatory signs and lines and pavement markers on the Local Government road network.

5.2.7 Bridge Works/Bridge Inspections

The Commonwealth provides Financial Assistance Grant funding to the Western Australian Government Grants Commission in the form of Untied Funds for Local Roads.

Of these funds (excluding Roads to Recovery funding), 7% is set aside for Special Projects and 2/3 of the 7% is provided for major maintenance and replacement of bridges on Local Roads.

The State provides a minimum matching contribution of \$1 for every \$2 provided under this arrangement.

The State also provides additional funding for Detailed Visual inspections (Level 2), Specialist Inspections and Investigations (Level 3) and for specific bridge projects with no funding contribution required from Local Government.

Local Governments are required to fund and perform Routine Visual Inspections (Level 1) of all bridges annually and to submit the inspections to Main Roads Western Australia. To be eligible for Special Project funding, Local Governments must be able to show that Level 1 inspections have been performed and that adequate routine and preventative maintenance have been undertaken to prevent undue deterioration.

5.2.8 State Initiatives on Local Roads

State Initiatives on Local Roads accounts for works that are generally larger in nature and fall outside of the criteria for other funding groups under this Agreement, however, are still of strategic importance to the State.

5.2.8.1 Active transport

Active Transport supports safe, well-designed and connected networks for people of all ages and abilities to ride bikes, scooters or walk to get around. Within this Agreement, over \$5 million will be set aside annually for Active Transport programs/projects to be administered by the Department of Transport.

5.2.9 Regional Road Group Support

Regional Road Group Support funds are provided for the following:

- Administrative support provided by Main Roads Western Australia for activities under this Agreement.
- Administrative and Technical assistance provided by Main Roads Western Australia to support the operation of RRG activities.
- Administrative support provided by Main Roads Western Australia to SAC and for the oversight of this Agreement.
- Audit of grant recoups pursuant to Main Roads Western Australia requirements.
- Other activities as identified or agreed.

6. Dispute Resolution

Local Governments should raise issues relating to funding under this Agreement with their respective Regional Road Group. If the issue(s) are unable to be resolved at this level, Regional Road Groups should refer them to SAC for review.

7. Key Performance Indicators

Key performance Indicators (KPIs) will focus on Expenditure Performance, asset management and road safety. KPIs have been established for monitoring purposes. Main Roads Western Australia and

WALGA will prepare an annual KPI report for SAC. The report will be provided to the Regional Road Groups.

8. Audit of Acquittal Records

At the first SAC meeting following the end of each financial year, Main Roads Western Australia will provide WALGA with actual expenditure on Local Government Roads, which can be reconciled against the approved annual budget for that year.

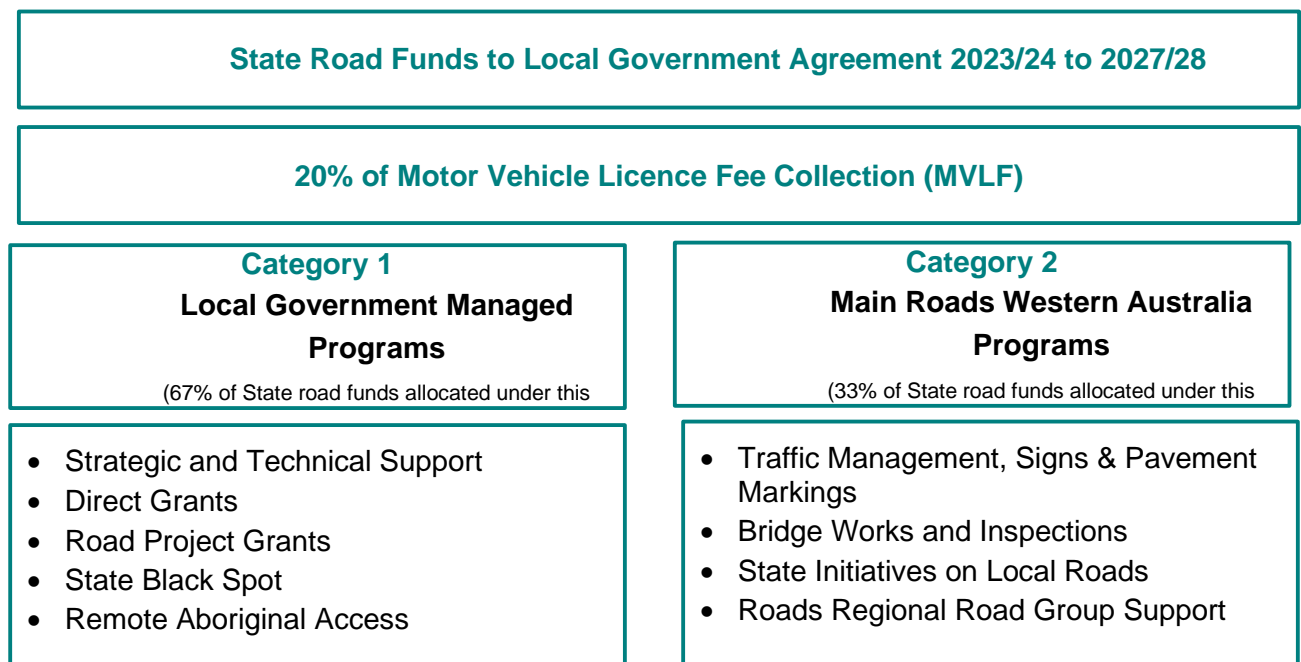
Any Local Government claiming funds under the Agreement accepts these payments on the understanding that they are subject to audit by Main Roads Western Australia or its representative. Costs associated with these audits will be funded from the Regional Road Group support category.

9. Commencement and Term

This Agreement commences from the 2023/24 financial year and will remain in place for a five-year period inclusive of the 2027/2028 financial year.

The Agreement may be cancelled by the mutual agreement of the WALGA, State Council and the Honourable Minister for Transport.

Figure 1 - STATE ROAD FUNDS TO LOCAL ROADS
Flow Chart for Calculating Funding Share for Local Government Roads



Signatories

Signed by

Hon. Rita Saffioti MLA

**Minister for Transport; Planning;
Lands**

Signed by

John Erceg

Managing Director of Main Roads

Signed by

Nick Sloan

**Chief Executive Officer of Western
Australian Local Government
Association**

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY STATE COUNCILLORS (UNDER SEPARATE COVER)

7.6 Finance and Services Committee Minutes 19 April 2023 – CONFIDENTIAL

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Finance and Services Committee meeting held on 19 April 2023 be endorsed.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Mayor Logan Howlett
Seconded: Cr Chris Mitchell

That the Minutes of the Finance and Services Committee meeting held on 19 April 2023 be endorsed.

RESOLUTION 444.2/2023

CARRIED

7.7 Flying Minute: Interview Report – LGIS Independent Director – CONFIDENTIAL

By Craig Hansom, Manager Commercial Contract Services, Member Services

Cr Paul Kelly declared an interest in this item and left the meeting at 12:44pm.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the appointment of Ms Kelly Hick to the LGIS Board as an Independent Director for a term of 3 years, endorsed by State Council by way of Flying Minute, be noted.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Chris Mitchell JP
Seconded: President Cr Phil Blight

That the appointment of Ms Kelly Hick to the LGIS Board as an Independent Director for a term of 3 years, endorsed by State Council by way of Flying Minute, be noted.

RESOLUTION 445.2/2023

CARRIED

7.8 Selection Committee Minutes 24 April 2023 – CONFIDENTIAL

By Tim Lane, Manager Association and Corporate Governance and Chantelle O'Brien, Governance Support Officer

Mayor Logan Howlett and Annie Riordan both declared an interest in this item and left the meeting at 12:45pm. Cr Paul Kelly also declared an interest in this item.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the resolutions contained in the 24 April 2023 Selection Committee Minutes be noted.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

**Moved: Cr Les Price
Seconded: President Cr Moira Girando JP**

That the resolutions contained in the 24 April 2023 Selection Committee Minutes be noted.

RESOLUTION 446.2/2023

CARRIED

7.9 Selection Committee Interview Report – LGIS Non-Metropolitan Local Government Officer – CONFIDENTIAL

By Tim Lane, Manager Corporate and Association Governance

Cr Paul Kelly, Mayor Logan Howlett and Annie Riordan all declared an interest in this item.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That:

- 1. the Selection Committee Interview Report be noted; and**
- 2. Mr Ben Rose, Chief Executive Officer of the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup be appointed to the LGISWA Board in the Non-Metropolitan Local Government Officer position, for a three-year term commencing on 1 July 2023.**

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

**Moved: President Cr Moira Girando
Seconded: Cr Chris Mitchell**

That:

- 1. the Selection Committee Interview Report be noted; and**
- 2. Mr Ben Rose, Chief Executive Officer of the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup be appointed to the LGISWA Board in the Non-Metropolitan Local Government Officer position, for a three-year term commencing on 1 July 2023.**

RESOLUTION 447.2/2023

CARRIED

Cr Paul Kelly, Mayor Logan Howlett and Annie Riordan returned to the meeting at 12:48pm.

7.10 LGIS Board Minutes 2 March 2023 – CONFIDENTIAL

By Craig Hansom, Manager Commercial Contract Services, Member Services

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the LGISWA Scheme Board meeting held on 2 March 2023 be noted.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Stephen Strange

Seconded: Cr Helen Sadler

That the Minutes of the LGISWA Scheme Board meeting held on 2 March 2023 be noted.

RESOLUTION 448.2/2023

CARRIED

7.11 LGIS Board Remuneration – CONFIDENTIAL

By Craig Hansom, Manager Commercial Contract Services, Member Services

Cr Paul Kelly declared an interest in this item and left the meeting at 12:52pm.

MOTION

[Refer Confidential Minutes]

RESOLUTION 449.2/2023

CARRIED

Cr Paul Kelly returned to the meeting at 1:01pm.

7.12 Use of the Association's Common Seal

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the use of the Association's Common Seal be noted.

Document	Document Description	Signatories	State Council prior approval
Letter of Offer – LGIS Bank Facilities	Acceptance of offer for Work Cover Guarantee Facility for LGIS to the value of \$52,100,000 at a cost of 0.65% (\$338,650).	WALGA President, Cr Karen Chappel JP WALGA CEO, Nick Sloan	No

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Moira Girando
 Seconded: Mayor Carol Adams

That the use of the Association's Common Seal be noted.

RESOLUTION 450.2/2023

CARRIED

8. POLICY TEAM REPORTS

8.1 Environment and Waste Policy Team Report

Presented by Policy Team Chair, Cr Les Price

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the matters considered by the Environment and Waste Policy Team be noted.

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 1 March 2023.

1. Matters for State Council Decision

1.1 Draft Guideline Minimising noise impact from outdoor community basketball facilities

The Policy Team noted the Minister's withdrawal of the Draft Guideline Minimising noise impact from outdoor community basketball facilities. The Policy Team identified that the issues relating to basketball court noise are symptomatic of far broader considerations. These include provision of public open space in the planning system, the complexity of balancing infill and the need for recreation facilities, and noise issues. The Policy Team agreed that a whole of government approach was needed to address these issues and that there are a range of possible policy and program interventions which could assist Local Governments in balancing these considerations.

1.2 South East Metropolitan Zone – Advocacy on Environmental Issues

The Policy Team discussed the complexities of the issue that the South East Metropolitan Zone had raised in relation to the impact on macropods from urban development. The Policy Team noted a clear role for the State Government in communicating and regulating this issue.

WALGA had strongly advocated for the Perth and Peel Strategic Assessment to be completed as this would have assisted in providing an overall, landscape scale conservation outcome on the Swan Coastal Plain but that the State Government announced that it would instead pursue regional planning as part of the State Native Vegetation policy.

WALGA will continue to engage with the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, on the issue of kangaroo management, and Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, on the implementation of WA's Native Vegetation Policy, and ensure the concerns of the South East Metropolitan Zone are brought to the Departments' attention. This item was also considered by the People and Place Policy Team.

2. Matters for State Council Noting

The following updates were noted:

- The Urban Forest Conference was held on 17 February at Curtin University.
 - There were more than 340 attendees from Local Government, State Government, industry, community organisations and academia.

- Speakers included: the Minister for Environment and Climate Action Hon Reece Whitby MLA; Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC, Member for South Metropolitan; Karen Sweeney, City of Sydney Manager of Urban Forest; representatives from Local Government; and high-profile horticultural experts Professor Josh Byrne and Sabrina Hahn.
- The event was a key tool in WALGA's advocacy to State Government for \$20 million to plant 60,000 trees, a key initiative in WALGA's State Budget Submission.
- Pre and post event marketing and media activity raised awareness of the issue and WALGA's budget request, including stories on the conference on ABC TV news, ABC radio and ABC on-line.
- WALGA will continue its advocacy on urban forests and the other initiatives contained within our State Budget Submission, through meetings with Ministers and Members of Parliament, and continued media activity in the months leading up to the Budget being handed down in May.
- The Gascoyne Waste and Environment Summit will be held on 11 and 12 May, in the Shire of Shark Bay.
- Climate Risk Assessment Training:
 - As part of a Natural Disaster Resistance Program Grant, WALGA hosted a pilot Climate Risk Assessment Training session on Monday 20 February.
 - This session provided Local Governments with the tools to run a climate risk assessment for their own organization and improve understanding of climate risk in their localities.
 - Following this pilot session, the training will be refined and offered to the sector in future.
- ARENA funding:
 - WALGA has commissioned a consultant to develop a template Fleet Transition Plan and nearly 20 Local Governments have agreed to be part of the ARENA funding bid.
 - There are positive funding opportunities from the State Government if WALGA ARENA bid is successful.
- Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act Review:
 - Stage 3 of the Act review is expected in mid-April.
 - WALGA has continued to engage with Stakeholders on this issue, including an upcoming meeting with Hon. Jackie Jarvis, Minister for Agriculture and Food; Forestry; Small Business; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests.

Zone Consideration	
Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Gascoyne Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Kimberley Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Murchison Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Peel Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Pilbara Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Michelle Rich
Seconded: Mayor Logan Howlett JP

That the matters considered by the Environment and Waste Policy Team be noted.

RESOLUTION 451.2/2023

CARRIED

8.2 Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team Report

Presented by Policy Team Chair, Cr Russ Fishwick

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

1. Retain, without amendment, Advocacy Positions:
 - (a) 2.1.14 Financial Assistance Grants
 - (b) 2.4.4 Remote Area Tax
 - (c) 2.5.21 Conduct of Postal Elections
 - (d) 2.5.39 Exemption from ASSB124
2. Delete Advocacy Positions:
 - (a) 2.5.14 Tender Threshold
 - (b) 2.5.26 Simple and Absolute Majority
3. Notes the GOS Policy Team's consideration of WALGA AGM 2022 Item 3.12.1 Abandoned Shopping Trolleys.

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

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the Governance and Organisational Services (GOS) Policy Team at its meeting held on 3 February 2023.

1. Matters for State Council Decision

The GOS Policy Team provides recommendations regarding six WALGA Advocacy Positions for State Council's decision. Advocacy Positions may be reviewed in the WALGA [Advocacy Position Manual](#).

1.1 Advocacy Position 2.1.14 Financial Assistance Grants

Policy Team Comment: Financial Assistance Grants remain a key issue for Local Governments. The issue is primarily being pursued via ALGA, whose position is for FA Grants to be restored to at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue via a phased approach. WALGA's current position is not inconsistent with ALGA's, and may be more politically palatable to the extent that it seeks an increase as opposed to identifying a quantum for increase.

Recommendation: State Council retain Advocacy Position 2.1.14 Financial Assistance Grants

1.2 Advocacy Position 2.4.4 Remote Area Tax

Policy Team Comment: This position was developed in response to an Inquiry by the Productivity Commission. While the final report was handed down, the Government at the time decided not to act on its recommendations and it is not clear that this is a priority for the current government. The issue remains relevant to WALGA members and has not been addressed by State Government.

Recommendation: State Council retain Advocacy Position 2.4.4 Remote Area Tax

1.3 Advocacy Position 2.5.14 Tender Threshold

Policy Team Comment: This Advocacy Position has been superseded by WALGA's more recently adopted advocacy Position 2.5.46 'Financial Management and Procurement', that includes the following:

"Supports the alignment of Local Government procurement thresholds, rules and policies with the State Government."

Alignment of procurement practices with State Government includes the tender threshold provisions. [State Government Procurement Rules](#) (dated 1 June 2021) establish a public tender threshold for State Government of \$250,000 which is consistent with the threshold now applied to Local Government.

Recommendation: State Council delete Advocacy Position 2.5.14 Tender Threshold

1.4 Advocacy Position 2.5.26 Simple and Absolute Majority

Policy Team Comment: This advocacy position was in response to the Department of Local Government's survey of Local Government views as to when an absolute majority decision should be required. Survey outcomes were addressed through the 2019 Local Government Act amendment that removed "special majority" provisions.

Recommendation: State Council delete Advocacy Position 2.5.26 Simple and Absolute Majority

1.5 Advocacy Position 2.5.21 Conduct of Postal Elections

Policy Team Comment: This advocacy is based on the principle that the WAEC should not retain a monopoly on the conduct of elections, and that choice will create a market with potential to drive down cost.

Recommendation: State Council retain Advocacy Position 2.5.21 Conduct of Postal Elections

1.6 Advocacy Position 2.5.39 Exemption from AASB124

Policy Team Comment: The advocacy position seeks an exemption from AASB124 on the basis that Council Member declare financial interests in Primary and Annual Returns.

Recommendation: State Council retain Advocacy Position 2.5.39 Exemption from AASB124

2. Matters for State Council Noting

2.1 WALGA AGM 2022 – Abandoned Shopping Trolleys

The [WALGA 2022 AGM](#) (Item 3.12.1) resolution, was referred by State Council on [7 December 2022](#) and considered by the GOS Policy Team, where it was resolved:

The Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team recommends a new WALGA Advocacy Position for State Council's endorsement, subject to the proposed Advocacy Position including animal controls similar to the NSW *Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021*.

A report will be presented to a future State Council meeting, recommending the requested Advocacy Position.

Zone Consideration	
Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Gascoyne Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Kimberley Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Murchison Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Peel Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Pilbara Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Russ Fishwick JP
Seconded: Mayor Carol Adams OAM

That State Council:

- 1. Retain, without amendment, Advocacy Positions:**
 - (a) 2.1.14 Financial Assistance Grants**
 - (b) 2.4.4 Remote Area Tax**
 - (c) 2.5.21 Conduct of Postal Elections**
 - (d) 2.5.39 Exemption from ASSB124**
- 2. Delete Advocacy Positions:**
 - (a) 2.5.14 Tender Threshold**
 - (b) 2.5.26 Simple and Absolute Majority**
- 3. Notes the GOS Policy Team's consideration of WALGA AGM 2022 Item 3.12.1 Abandoned Shopping Trolleys.**

RESOLUTION 452.2/2023

CARRIED

8.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report

Presented by Policy Team Chair, President Cr Chris Pavlovich

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the matters considered by the Infrastructure Policy Team be noted.

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 meeting held on 1 March 2023.

1. Matters for State Council Decision

Speed Management Reform Advocacy Position – see Agenda item 7.4.

2. Matters for Noting by State Council

The Policy Team had further discussions concerning the Western Power Access Arrangement and considered a follow up submission to the Economic Regulation Authority that was consistent with the [Advocacy Position](#) endorsed in [May 2022](#). The ERA delivered its final decision on 31 March 2023.

3. Items Referred from Zones

The Policy Team considered and agreed recommendations in relation to:

- Heavy haulage cost recovery
- Advocacy for upgrading Goldfields Highway between Meekatharra and Wiluna
- Disaster recovery funding arrangements
- Total Fire Ban impacts on road management
- Road Traffic Issues and the relationship between Local Government and Main Roads WA
- Car Parking and Traffic Congestion Around Schools
- Regional Road Maintenance Contracts with Main Roads WA
- Beef Roads Program
- Western Power Access Arrangement 5 (2023 – 2027)

These recommendations are reflected in the Zone Status Reports.

4. New Policy Issues

The Policy Team undertook a workshop to identify strategic policy gaps and opportunities for consideration in 2023/24.

Zone Consideration	
Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Gascoyne Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Kimberley Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Murchison Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Peel Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Pilbara Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Chris Pavlovich
Seconded: Cr Helen Sadler

That the matters considered by the Infrastructure Policy Team be noted.

RESOLUTION 453.2/2023

CARRIED

8.4 People and Place Policy Team Report

Presented by Policy Team Chair, President Cr Tony Dean

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the matters considered by the People and Place Policy Team be noted.

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, since the last State Council meeting, by the People and Place Policy Team at its meeting held on 1 March 2023.

1. Matters for State Council Decision

1.1 South East Metropolitan Zone – Advocacy on Environmental Issues

The Policy Team noted the recommendations from the South East Metropolitan Zone. The Policy Team discussed the complex issues and risks associated with macropod translocation and the clear role for the State Government in communicating and regulating the issue was noted.

The Policy Team agreed that WALGA should not take a lead role in the development of a consultation piece as proposed in the Zone recommendation.

The Policy Team requests the WALGA Secretariat continue to engage with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions on the issue of kangaroo management and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation on the implementation of WA's Native Vegetation Policy and ensure the concerns of the South East Metropolitan Zone are brought to the Departments' attention. This item was also considered by the Environment and Waste Policy Team.

2. Matters for State Council Noting

At the meeting on 1 March, the People and Place Policy Team received:

- a presentation on Child Safeguarding from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries representatives Tom Fleming and Kait McNamara; and
- an update from the Planning and Building Team on the recently announced next phase of the State Government's planning reforms agenda and other high-profile planning initiatives.

Zone Consideration	
Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Gascoyne Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Kimberley Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Murchison Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Peel Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Pilbara Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Tony Dean
Seconded: Cr Frank Cvitan JP

That the matters considered by the People and Place Policy Team be noted.

RESOLUTION 454.2/2023

CARRIED

9. MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

9.1 2023 Policy Priorities

By Dana Mason, Manager Economics

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the update on WALGA's 2023 Policy Priorities be noted.

Executive Summary

- It is important that WALGA focuses on issues of most importance to Local Governments to maximise sector outcomes and avoid diluting our effectiveness in influencing key decision-makers.
- At the March Strategic Forum, the State Council discussed WALGA's policy priorities for 2023. The agreed priorities are now available on the [WALGA website](#).
- Any new issues emerging through Zones or other channels will be considered in the context of these identified priorities.

Attachment

- [WALGA 2023 Policy Priorities](#)

Background

While there are a wide range of issues facing Local Governments, it is important that WALGA focuses on those of most importance, to maximise sector outcomes and avoid diluting our effectiveness in influencing key decision-makers.

At the March Strategic Forum, the State Council discussed WALGA's policy priorities for 2023. These priorities seek to pursue a number of important objectives:

- Agile and empowered Local Government;
- Resilient, capable and inclusive communities;
- Climate action;
- Communities that are safe and resilient from natural disasters;
- Sustainable management of the environment;
- Infrastructure to meet the needs of our economy and communities; and
- Thriving economies and local job opportunities.

The agreed priorities are now available on the WALGA website, [here](#).

The identified priorities are issues of state-wide concern to Local Governments and their communities. They range in their stage of development, from emerging issues that require research and the collation of evidence to underpin a robust policy position on behalf of the sector; to those that are long standing positions.

An overarching focus for 2023 will be to ensure that WALGA has relevant, contemporary, and fit for purpose policy positions to support our advocacy across all priority areas.

Comment

WALGA's 2023 Policy Priorities document will assist to:

- Ensure that WALGA Members are informed and can contribute to ongoing policy development;
- Target resources to areas of greatest impact for the Local Government sector collectively; and
- Improve coordination of activities and advocacy strategies across the sector.

It is important to note that new issues may arise, or current issues may evolve significantly during 2023, which may require the priorities to be reprioritised or amended. Any new issues emerging through Zones or other channels will be considered in the context of these identified priorities.

Zone Consideration	
Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Gascoyne Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Kimberley Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Murchison Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Peel Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Pilbara Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Chris Mitchell JP
Seconded: President Cr Moira Girando JP

That the update on WALGA's 2023 Policy Priorities be noted.

RESOLUTION 455.2/2023

CARRIED

9.2 Local Government Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review Project

By Simone Ruane, LEMA Review Project Lead

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the update on the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review Project be noted.

Executive Summary

- The LEMA Review is a partnership between the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and WALGA, initiated in response to reports that the current LEMA model is not fit-for-purpose for Local Government.
- The LEMA Review is an opportunity to develop new LEMA approaches, reshape emergency management (EM) procedures and enhance disaster preparedness at the local level.
- WALGA received AWARE funding to lead a consultation with Local Government for the LEMA Review to ensure that the outcomes were sector-led and representative of a diverse range of Local Governments.
- From April to December 2022, WALGA engaged with the sector to identify LEMA strengths, weaknesses, and improvement opportunities in a consultation process. 100 Western Australian Local Governments participated in the consultation process.
- WALGA's [LEMA Review Consultation with Western Australian Local Governments: Project Summary and Recommendations Report](#) summarises the key findings of this consultation process that will inform a LEMA Improvement Plan developed by DFES.
- A final LEMA Improvement Plan, which will include implementation actions, will be submitted to the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) for endorsement in August 2023.

Attachments

- [LEMA Review Issues Paper](#)
- [LEMA Review Local Government Survey Findings Report](#)
- [LEMA Review Workshop Consultation Report](#)
- [LEMA Review Consultation with Western Australian Local Governments: Project Summary and Recommendations Report](#)

Background

Under the *Emergency Management Act 2005* (EM Act), Local Governments in Western Australia are required to have Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) in place. LEMA is the collection of all emergency management strategies, plans, agreements and other documents that apply to the Local Government district.

In 2019, the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) identified that there were an increasing number of Local Governments with LEMA overdue for review. Based on WALGA's recommendation, SEMC endorsed a LEMA Review to inform the design of an improved LEMA model. In 2021, DFES was granted National Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) funding to undertake a LEMA Review and WALGA was allocated AWARE funding to lead the consultation with Local Governments to ensure a sector-led approach.

The LEMA Review officially commenced in March 2022 as a partnership initiative between the DFES' SEMC Business Unit and WALGA. From April to December 2022, WALGA engaged with the 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 have participated in the consultation.

WALGA's [LEMA Review Consultation with Western Australian Local Governments: Project Summary and Recommendations Report](#) summarises the key findings of this consultation process. A more detailed overview of the consultation process and outcomes are presented in [WALGA's LEMA Review Issues Paper](#), [LEMA Review Survey Report](#) and an independent [LEMA Review Workshop Consultation Report](#).

WALGA's consultation findings indicate that LEMA should 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. To enable this, an improved LEMA model 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 system;
- 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;
- enable resource sharing and collaboration across the Local Government sector; and
- transfer specific elements of emergency management planning to the district or sub-district level where appropriate, so Local Governments can focus on relevant and contextual emergency management planning at the local level.

Comment

Based on the LEMA Review consultation findings and aligned with WALGA's current [Advocacy Positions](#), WALGA has made the following recommendations to inform the LEMA Improvement Plan currently being developed by DFES:

1. DFES and SEMC approve and secure funding for a three-year LEMA Improvement Project to implement the LEMA Review improvement actions (August 2023 - August 2026);
2. The State Government increase the emergency management resourcing for Local Governments that currently lack emergency management capacity and capability;
3. The State Government develop a simpler and streamlined State Emergency Management Framework with improved communications, guidance and digital tools for Local Governments to assist them to meet their LEMA obligations;
4. SEMC abolish the current one-size-fits-all LEMA model template and develop a suite of LEMA guidance material and practical tools; and
5. The State Government develop new LEMA approaches that focus more on building the emergency management capacity and capability of the sector through the provision of training, exercising support and targeted investment, rather than a compliance focus.

A final LEMA Improvement Plan, which will include implementation actions, will be submitted to the SEMC for endorsement in August 2023.

Zone Consideration	
Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Gascoyne Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Kimberley Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Murchison Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Peel Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Pilbara Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Chris Mitchell JP
Seconded: President Cr Moira Girando JP

That the update on the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review Project be noted.

RESOLUTION 455.2/2023

CARRIED

9.3 Submission to the Independent Review of WA's COVID-19 Management and Response

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager, Policy

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the Submission to the Independent Review of Western Australia's COVID-19 Management and Response, endorsed via Flying Minute on 15 March 2023, be noted.

Executive Summary

- The State Government has commissioned an independent review of WA's response and management of COVID-19, with submissions due by 16 March 2023.
- The scope of the review is limited to the Western Australian Government's response and management of COVID-19 and specifically excludes Local Government, Commonwealth Government and non-government organisations.
- WALGA's submission is based on the Association's, and Local Governments', experience and interaction with the State Government in responding to COVID-19.
- The submission acknowledges the effectiveness of the State Government's response and focuses on WALGA and Local Governments experience of the State Government's COVID-19 response relating to public sector capacity and capability, intragovernmental communication and cooperation, community support, engagement and communication and the economic and social outcomes.
- Feedback from State Councilors, provided via the Flying Agenda process, was incorporated into the final submission.

Attachment

- [Flying Minute Submission to the Independent Review of WA's COVID-19 Management and Response](#)

Background

The State Government announced the Independent Review of WA's COVID-19 Management and Response on 19 January 2023, with submissions to the Review opening from 17 February to 16 March 2023.

The terms of reference for the review were as follows:

- Pandemic planning and preparedness, specifically:*
 - Public sector pandemic plans and policies; and*
 - Public sector capacity and capability.*
- Government programs and processes to support the health response, specifically:*
 - COVID-19 testing, including the Free Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) program, procurement of ventilators, mask distribution, and vaccine rollout; and*
 - Digital solutions (e.g. PHOCUS, VaccinateWA, G2G, SafeWA and ServiceWA).*
- Intragovernmental communication and cooperation, specifically:*
 - Structures and resource mobilisation across the public sector; and*
 - Data collection, sharing and use.*
- Community support, engagement, and communication, specifically:*
 - Public communications and campaigns; and*
 - Industry and community engagement.*
- The effectiveness of public health levers on health outcomes, specifically:*
 - Public health and social measures, including borders; and*
 - Testing, tracing, isolation, and quarantine.*

In addition to considering Government's future preparedness, the reviewers will also consider the economic, social and health outcomes of WA's COVID-19 management and response.

The limited scope of the review and the information provided on making submissions makes clear that material outside the terms of reference will not be considered by the Panel.

Comment

WALGA's submission acknowledges the efforts of the WA Government in responding to the unprecedented circumstances presented by COVID-19 and its success in minimising the social, health and economic impacts on the WA population.

The submission provides information on the role played by Local Government and WALGA during COVID-19 and experience of the State Government's COVID-19 response relating to public sector capacity and capability, intragovernmental communication and cooperation, community support, engagement and communication and the economic and social outcomes.

The submission makes recommendations regarding a consultation and engagement with WALGA and the sector in relation to the development of State of Emergency Directions and other COVID-19 response measures and the capacity of State Government to provide advice, respond to queries and provide up to date resources. The submission also makes specific mention of the sector's exclusion from the JobKeeper scheme.

WALGA's submission was informed by feedback from a group of metropolitan and regional Local Government CEO's that met regularly with the WALGA executive to provide advice and insights throughout the pandemic.

The WALGA CEO attended a workshop with the Review Panel and other key stakeholders on Monday, 13 March, which provided another opportunity to discuss the key role that Local Government played in relation to COVID-19 response and management.

State Council considered the submission out of session and feedback provided was incorporated in the final submission, where they related to Local Governments' experience and aligned with the very limited terms of reference for the review.

Zone Consideration	
Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Gascoyne Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Kimberley Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Murchison Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Peel Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Pilbara Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Chris Mitchell JP
Seconded: President Cr Moira Girando JP

That the Submission to the Independent Review of Western Australia's COVID-19 Management and Response, endorsed via Flying Minute on 15 March 2023, be noted.

RESOLUTION 455.2/2023

CARRIED

9.4 Submission to the DWER E-waste to Landfill Ban Consultation Paper

By Rebecca Brown, Manager, Waste and Environment

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the Submission to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's E-Waste to Landfill Ban Consultation paper, endorsed via Flying Minute on 30 March 2023, be noted.

Executive Summary

- The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation has released a Consultation Paper on the proposed e-waste to landfill ban.
- The State Government made an election commitment to deliver a state-wide ban by 2024, with the aim of improving management and recycling of e-waste produced by households and businesses across the State.
- WALGA acknowledges the objectives of the ban and its alignment to global, national and local environmental and recovery targets, in particular the [Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030](#). However, the implementation of an e-waste to landfill ban by 2024, in its proposed form, could have significant financial implications for Local Governments, and the communities they service.
- Currently, there are no fully effective product stewardship schemes in place for the materials covered by the bans, which means if the ban is implemented the costs will be borne by Local Government and the community.
- WALGA's submission has been developed with input from Local Governments, and highlights issues raised by the sector regarding e-waste recycling.
- The submission was endorsed by State Council via the Flying Agenda process.

Attachment

- [Flying Minute: Submission on the Consultation Paper – E-waste to landfill ban in Western Australia](#)

Background

The State Government made an election commitment to deliver a state-wide ban on e-waste disposal to landfill by 2024. The State Government has identified funding for collection and processing infrastructure will be provided to support the e-waste recycling industry. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) has released a [E-waste to landfill ban in Western Australian: Consultation Paper](#) which outlines three regulatory options and proposed scope of the material included.

The e-waste to landfill ban will initially focus on electrical, electronic and battery-powered items that have been collected and aggregated purposes of recycling or recovery that:

- are covered by effective product stewardship schemes, particularly those accredited schemes under the *Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020*
- have established markets or systems for collection, recycling and processing in Western Australia that can grow with increased supply or that have access to national processing infrastructure
- contain recoverable base materials of value, for example metals, including precious metals.

Objectives of the ban include:

- supporting increased recovery of value from e-waste materials
- protecting the environment by better management of hazardous products
- expanding the State's e-waste collection, recycling and processing networks.

The ban will apply to e-waste collected for the purposes of recycling. Incidental disposal, such as items placed in a kerbside bin, will not be subject to the ban.

The WA Government has not previously used landfill bans extensively, however they are used in several other jurisdictions. The only existing landfill ban is the tyre exclusion zone, which prohibits the landfilling of tyres in and around the Perth metropolitan area. The unintended consequence of the tyre exclusion zone is that tyres are transported outside this area and landfilled.

In 2006, the then Waste Management Board commissioned work to investigate the environmental, social and economic impacts of potential landfill bans on household packaging, building products and organic waste. The [WALGA Submission](#) made a key recommendation:

Any future investigations into a potential ban to landfill for any material type only be undertaken as a part of a multi-tool approach incorporating Extended Producer Responsibility programmes and other appropriate policies and mechanisms.

The issues relating to Landfill bans have not changed since that time. [WALGA's 2022 submission](#) on the Stewardship for Consumer and Other Electrical and Electronic Products *did not support a landfill ban for e-waste in the absence of a fully effective product stewardship scheme for products which would be subject to the ban.*

There are no fully effective product stewardship schemes in place for these materials, nor are they likely to be when the landfill ban is scheduled for implementation:

- The current National TV and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme costs Local Government up to \$350 per tonne to recycle in-scope products.
- The new national Product Stewardship Scheme, anticipated to cover a wider scope of e-waste, is not scheduled for introduction until mid-2025, with on ground implementation timeframes to be determined.
- [Fluorocycle](#), the voluntary national product stewardship scheme, does not provide any funding for recycling of fluorescent lighting. These materials are collected through the HHW Program, the cost to recycle these products for the 2021-22 financial year, excluding transport, was \$70,568. 22,403 kgs of material was collected, this is 5% of the material collected through the HHW Program.

Comment

WALGA's submission was informed by feedback from metropolitan and regional Local Governments and highlights key issues currently experienced by the sector with e-waste recycling, which are expected to intensify following implementation of the ban and anticipated increase in volume of material.

The submission makes recommendations that engagement efforts are focused on ensuring effective product stewardship schemes are in place for all material included in the bans prior to implementation, or alternative funding schemes are put in place to cover additional costs, rather than these costs being borne by Local Governments and the community.

The DWER Discussion Paper, and associated cost benefit analysis, have not clearly delineated the disproportionate costs between metropolitan and regional collection points, by applying a standard cost across the state which primarily reflects a metropolitan perspective.

In addition, it is recommended to undertake consultation and engagement with regional local Governments to provide an accurate estimation of costs associated with establishing and maintaining e-waste recycling in regional and remote areas.

State Council considered and endorsed the submission out of session via the Flying Agenda process.

Zone Consideration	
Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Gascoyne Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Kimberley Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Murchison Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Peel Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Pilbara Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Chris Mitchell JP
Seconded: President Cr Moira Girando JP

That the Submission to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's E-Waste to Landfill Ban Consultation paper, endorsed via Flying Minute on 30 March 2023, be noted.

RESOLUTION 455.2/2023

CARRIED

9.5 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC)

By Rebecca Brown, Manager, Waste and Environment

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the resolutions of the 22 February 2023 Municipal Waste Advisory Council meeting be noted.

Executive Summary

This item summaries the outcomes of the MWAC meeting held on Wednesday, 22 February.

Background

MWAC is seeking that State Council notes the resolutions from its 22 February meeting, consistent with the delegated authority granted to MWAC to deal with waste management issues.

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

Comment

Key issues considered at the meeting held on 22 February 2023:

Expansion of the QLD Container Deposit Scheme Submission

The QLD Department of Environment and Science conducted consultation on expanding the scope of eligible containers included their Container Refund Scheme – Containers for Change.

A Submission has been developed which focuses on supporting the expansion of the Scheme to cover a range of additional products including wine and spirits, fruit and vegetable juice, plain and flavoured milk and milk alternatives, concentrated fruit juice, cordial, flavoured alcoholic beverages with a wine base and registered health tonics.

Given the review of the scope of the WA Container Deposit Scheme it is important that there is national alignment on material types covered by the various Schemes. A Submission was provided to the NSW EPA in December 2022 in response to their Scheme review. WALGA has engaged with the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) to ensure a consistent approach.

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MOTION

That the Municipal Waste Advisory Council endorse the Submission on *Discussion Paper: Proposal to expand the scope of eligible container in Queensland's Container Refund Scheme – Containers for Change.*

Moved: Cr Johnson Seconded: Cr Price

CARRIED

WALGA Policy Statement Consultation and Communications – Review

The [Consultation and Communication Policy Statement](#) identifies the roles and responsibilities of the Association, including key principles of engagement, stakeholders and the appropriate level of and methods for Consultation and Communication, in relation to waste management. Following discussion, it was determined by MWAC that this Policy Statement was no longer be needed. It is not an advocacy position but rather identifies how consultation will occur for waste management issues, therefore it can be captured as an internal process, rather than a Policy Statement.

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MOTION

That the Municipal Waste Advisory Council withdraw the *Consultation and Communication Policy Statement* and continue to utilise the document as a reference point for engagement purposes.

Moved: Cr Abetz Seconded: Cr Price

CARRIED

Zone Consideration	
Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Gascoyne Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Kimberley Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Murchison Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Peel Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Pilbara Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Chris Mitchell JP
 Seconded: President Cr Moira Girando JP

That the resolutions of the 22 February 2023 Municipal Waste Advisory Council meeting be noted.

RESOLUTION 455.2/2023

CARRIED

9.6 March 2023 Economic Briefing

By Rebecca Brown, Manager, Waste and Environment

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the update on the March 2023 Economic Briefing be noted.

Executive Summary

- WALGA recently released the March 2023 Economic Briefing.
- This quarter's edition is the most important issue of the year, as it contains information and forecasts to assist Local Governments to prepare their Budgets for the next financial year.
- A new campaign was undertaken this quarter to raise awareness of the publication, which has seen subscription rates increase by almost 200%.

Attachments

- [March 2023 Economic Briefing](#)
- [Economic Briefing Video](#)

Background

WALGA recently released the March 2023 Economic Briefing. WALGA's Economics team have analysed data from a variety of sources, such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Reserve Bank, and WA Treasury to produce a report specifically tailored for Local Governments.

It also includes the Local Government Cost Index (LGCI), an index created by WALGA to provide Members a better understanding of price trends specifically related to Local Government services and infrastructure.

This quarter's snapshot comes at a crucial time, as Local Governments prepare budgets for the next financial year amid a backdrop of high costs and labour constraints.

A new campaign was undertaken this quarter to raise awareness of the publication, which has seen subscription rates increase by almost 200%.

Highlights from the report include:

- Positive signs that the LGCI may have peaked after easing for the second consecutive quarter in December 2022. The LGCI is expected to grow 4.5% through 2022-23, and 2.9% in 2023-24.
- Some relief from the recent increases in construction costs. However, they are not expected to return to their 2020 levels, but to grow at a more moderate pace.
- Wages are tipped to increase following several years of modest growth.
- The labour market remains tight, which will pose challenges for the sector to attract and retain staff and will add to wage pressures.

Comment

Understanding what's happening in the economy is important to help Local Governments to ensure that their budgets are build off a set of reasonable assumptions. With the cost of living rising at its highest rate in 30 years, Local Governments are setting their budgets for the next financial year at a challenging time for the community. Local Government leaders will need to weigh up the ability to deliver community services and infrastructure against imposing an additional burden on the community.

In such an uncertain and rapidly changing environment, Local Governments should prepare for multiple scenarios and consider a range of options to deliver their communities priorities in coming years.

Zone Consideration	
Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Gascoyne Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Kimberley Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Murchison Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Peel Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Pilbara Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Chris Mitchell JP
Seconded: President Cr Moira Girando JP

That the update on the March 2023 Economic Briefing be noted.

RESOLUTION 455.2/2023

CARRIED

10. ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

10.1 Key Activity Reports

10.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio

Presented by Narelle Cant, Executive Manager Advocacy

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the Key Activities Report from the Advocacy Portfolio to the May 2023 State Council meeting be noted.

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.

Media

There have been 46 mentions (separate stories) of WALGA in February and March.

The dominant story for this period was the planning reform changes announced by the State Government on 22 February. The issue featured prominently across all three news mediums – newspapers, radio, and television – for 48 hours. Comments from WALGA President Cr Karen Chappel ran in The West Australian newspaper and online, along with interviews and reaction on Channel Nine’s 6pm news bulletin, ABC’s state-wide 7pm news bulletin, ABC radio morning program, WA Today and Business News.

Comments from Cr Chappel also ran in the Kalgoorlie Miner following a State Government announcement on February 22 about the creation of a \$80m infrastructure headworks fund. Cr Chappel welcomed the decision that \$40m would be spent in regional areas.

Local Government Reforms continued to be a topical media issue following the legislation being read into Parliament in February. Cr Chappel spoke to ABC Regional Radio (Drive) on 23 February and ABC Mid-West and Wheatbelt morning programs on 24 February. An interview with MMM also ran across their regional news bulletins.

The State Government Medium Density Code announcement also saw Cr Chappel provide comment to The West Australian, highlighting WALGA’s Budget submission calling for \$20 million in funding to plant 60,000 trees.

Comments from Cr Chappel outlining WALGA State Council’s resolution on The Voice to Parliament ran on ABC Kimberley and Pilbara news bulletins in March.

Comments from Cr Chappel also ran on short term accommodation rentals ran on NCA Newswire (News Limited’s version of AAP).

Cr Chappel also commented to ABC online on the vape disposal issue.

Federal Election Campaign

WALGA worked alongside ALGA and Local Government associations in other states and territories on a Federal election campaign from late March through April, writing to the Federal Treasurer, Federal Members and Senators, and posting on social media. The campaign had separate themes each week including, Roads to Recovery, housing, fair increases to Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) and cyber security.

- Economic recovery
- Transport and Community Infrastructure
- Building Resilience
- Circular Economy
- Intergovernmental relations

The Federal Budget will be delivered on 9 May.

State Budget Advocacy and Communications

This year's State Budget will be handed down on 11 May. WALGA continues to promote various funding requests included in its State Budget Submission through social media channels in the lead up to the Budget, and will respond as appropriate through traditional and social media on Budget day and in the days immediately following.

Members will be provided with timely information on the Budget, via a special edition of LG Direct and on the WALGA website, which will host information on topics of relevance to the sector.

Urban Forest Conference 2023

The biennial Urban Forest Conference was held on 17 February at Curtin University.

With the theme of 'Valuing Canopy', the 2023 Urban Forest conference featured an impressive line-up of urban forest experts from across the country to discuss the latest research, effective policy and planning interventions, and innovative approaches to incorporating green space into the urban environment.

This year's event was supported by an integrated marketing and communications strategy including personalised email marketing, pre and post social media activity, plantable (seeded) invitations, in-situ surveys and post event questionnaires, and new look event collateral.

Results from the event marketing were:

- 338 attendees, more than double the 2020 event attendance
- 29 personalised emails to targeted email lists and 25 social media posts resulting in a 100% increase in website visits from the 2020 event
- 55% of seeded invitation recipients visiting the website
- More than 270 downloads of the event app, representing 83% of attendees.

To view content from the day, please visit the [Conference Event Hub](#).

Transport and Roads Forum 2023

The 2023 Transport and Roads Forum was attended by 169 people, who heard from industry experts from across the country on issues including disaster funding for rebuilding infrastructure, urban transport, use of recycled materials in local roads and road safety.

The 2023 personalised event marketing strategy delivered 16 tailored emails and five social media posts profiling the speakers and the event, resulting in five times the WALGA average website hits.

Economic Briefing March 2023 edition

WALGA's Quarterly Economic Briefing offers comprehensive information on the Local Government Cost Index, along with broader insights on the Western Australian economy.

WALGA launched the latest edition of the Economic Briefing in late March through an integrated campaign strategy, with the key objective of increasing the reach of the publication, promoting its value, and profiling the economics expertise within WALGA. In the week of publication, subscriptions to the Economic Briefing increased by almost 200%. The March edition can be viewed [here](#).

The campaign for the March edition included highlights and industry specific videos featuring senior WALGA staff, a professional designed publication and infographic, LinkedIn blogs, internal WALGA communications and articles in WALGA's electronic newsletters.

All activity will be tracked and reported for future learnings and improvements.

Digital Transformation Projects

WALGA's [Corporate Strategy 2020-2025](#) identifies contemporary systems as a priority; namely, *we ensure systems and processes are simplified and digitised*. As part of a significant journey of digital transformation, there are currently three major, cross-organisation digital projects in progress:

1. *Technology Roadmap*

A new Technology Roadmap for WALGA will deliver a three to five-year strategic transformation plan, with clear and actionable outcomes, focussed on technology as a core enabler. In March, a staff survey gathered views on our digital capability to assist in the prioritisation of technology initiatives. This was followed by a series of workshops to further inform the Roadmap.

2. *Website*

WALGA has appointed a digital agency to rebuild its website so that it better serves Members, and is a contemporary and effective tool for external engagement, advocacy and promotion of WALGA activities and the Local Government sector. The first scope will be user experience research, followed by website user experience and design, and, finally, technical requirements. It is expected the rebuilt website will be live by December 2023.

3. *CRM Updates*

As our 'single source of truth' about our Members, the CRM is an important tool for engagement and data. To improve usability and quality of data, significant improvements to the CRM are underway. This will also enable WALGA to better target Members through electronic direct mail, and accurately capture event attendance and feedback through surveys.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Mayor Logan Howlett JP
Seconded: President Cr Stephen Strange

That the Key Activities Report from the Advocacy Portfolio to the May 2023 State Council meeting be noted.

RESOLUTION 456.2/2023

CARRIED

10.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio

Presented by Terri-Anne Pettet, Acting Executive Manager Infrastructure

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the Key Activities Report from the Infrastructure Portfolio to the May 2023 State Council meeting be noted.

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

Condition Assessment of Roads of Regional Significance

The Australian Road Research Board (ARRB) have completed the visual condition survey covering strategically significant roads (ROADS 2040) in the Wheatbelt Region, presented to the Regional Road Group meetings and delivered two workshops for technical staff. All data has now been delivered and WALGA will send a hard drive to each Local Government with the video data, PowerBI dashboard, and report soon. It is proposed to survey the South West Region in the next phase of this project.

Local Government Transport and Roads Research and Innovation Program

WALGA and Main Roads have recently commenced three major research projects in key areas of focus for Local Governments. The three projects are to develop 1) a Local Government guideline for sustainable road construction practices in WA, 2) a guideline for the selection and implementation of low-cost road safety improvements on rural roads, and 3) a practical guide to the timely sealing for Local Government roads. The projects will support the uptake of best practice in these areas in the Local Government sector and are forecast to be completed by mid-2023.

Funding

State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement

The current Agreement expires in June 2023 and a draft new Agreement has been finalised following negotiations between WALGA State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee (SAC) delegates and Main Roads WA. The draft Agreement does not present any significant changes to the current Agreement. The WALGA President and CEO met with the Minister of Transport who has indicated support for the draft Agreement. The request to reinstate the quantum of funding to 27% of motor vehicle licence fee collections was not supported. The draft Agreement will be submitted to State Council for consideration in May.

Multi-Criteria Assessment (MCA) Model Revisions

Work has continued to harmonise the MCA models used by Regional Road Groups to prioritise project proposals. 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 will commence in June/July 2023 with the intent of delivering a revised MCA model in each region for assessment of 2025/26 projects.

Business Case for Safety Improvement of the High Speed Sealed Network

WALGA partnered with the RAC and Main Roads WA to develop a business case to improve the safety performance of sealed, high speed Local Government roads in peri-urban, rural and remote areas. Roads and treatments were identified and prioritised based on ROADS 2040, traffic volume and serious crash data. The business case includes before and after crash risk assessments and a cost benefits analysis using accepted crash reduction factors.

The business case is expected to propose treatments be applied to over 480 roads with a total length of nearly 9000km. The most frequently proposed treatments include lane widening, addition of centreline and edge lines and sealing existing shoulders. A meeting with Infrastructure Australia is planned prior to finalising the business case.

Utilities

Streetlighting

WALGA continued engagement with Western Power and the Economic Regulation Authority in relation to the streetlighting services being considered as part of the regulated Access Arrangement 2023 - 2027. The Economic Regulation Authority published its final decision on 31 March. Western Power did not complete the requested laboratory assessment of the proposed replacement LED lamps prior to the final decision. The decision and proposed pricing to take effect from 1 July 2023 requires analysis.

Underground Power

WALGA has provided preliminary feedback to Energy Policy WA concerning guidelines for the Targeted Underground Power Program and Terms of Reference for a proposed program steering committee to be appointed by the Minister for Energy. A Reference Group of representatives from the twelve Local Governments with proposed projects in the coming four years is being established by WALGA to provide input to the program design and delivery arrangements, and share learnings between participants.

Road Safety

Road Safety Ratings for Local Government Roads Project

WALGA and the UWA Western Australian Centre for Road Safety Research project team has developed a new tool and prepared draft guidelines to support the development of safety ratings for Local Government roads. The Road Safety Ratings for Local Government Roads Assessment Guide and Reference Document are being used by seven Local Governments in the pilot phase of the project. This pilot phase will enable further refinements to the tool and assess the usability of the tool for Local Governments. The final tool is expected to be completed by mid-2023.

Road Safety Council Update

The Road Safety Council met on 10 March 2023. It was the first meeting of the new membership, established by the incoming chairperson and confirmed by Ministerial appointment, consisting of senior representatives from transport, police, health, planning, education, Insurance Commission, Road Safety Commission, the RAC and WALGA represented by CEO Nick Sloan.

At this meeting, members considered the delivery of the Driving Change road safety strategy and the priorities for evaluating Road Trauma Trust Account (RTTA) funded projects. The Road Safety Council also noted that the Office of the Auditor General is conducting a Performance Audit – Managing Road Safety Funding and Strategies.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Mayor Logan Howlett JP
Seconded: President Cr Stephen Strange

That the Key Activities Report from the Infrastructure Portfolio to the May 2023 State Council meeting be noted.

RESOLUTION 456.2/2023

CARRIED

10.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio

Presented by Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the Key Activities Report from the Member Services Portfolio to the May 2023 State Council meeting be noted.

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.

Commercial

Preferred Supplier Program Development

During the January to March 2023 quarter, 46 new suppliers were added to the Preferred Supplier Program (PSP). The majority of this activity relates to the new Construction Contract. All PSP contracts are developed through a Tender process. A breakdown of Panel appointments is as follows:

PSP001 Information and Communication Technologies	1
PSP003 Professional Consultancy Services	1
PSP007 Waste and Energy	1
PSP007-012 EV Charging Infrastructure	5
PSP008 Workplace Goods and Services	2
PSP009 Roads, Infrastructure & Depot Services	3
PSP010 Parks and Gardens	2
RFT11/22 Light Electric Vehicles	1
PSP011 Temporary Labour and Recruitment	1
PSP012 Construction and Built Environment	29

Additionally, there are currently 10 Extra Category evaluation and assessment processes in progress to prequalify current suppliers to additional supply categories.

The contract for Alinea for metropolitan library courier services has been extended for a further year. Contracts for WALGA Tax and CouncilConnect have also been continued for the forthcoming subscription year.

Sustainable Energy Project

The WALGA Energy Project formally commenced on 1 April 2022. The project is delivering 48 WALGA Members access to renewable energy at secured contract rates. The project has already saved over \$6 million dollars (measured against current market pricing) and saved 22,477 tonnes of carbon in its first three operating quarters. The first year data will be available in May 2023, and initial scoping of future phases of the project has commenced.

Construction and Built Environments

WALGA has introduced a new Preferred Supplier Panel (PSP) to support building and works. The initial categories for the new contract now available are:

- PSP012-001 Modular and Prefabricated Dwellings
- PSP012-002 Construction – New Buildings
- PSP012-003 Building Refurbishment and Remediation
- PSP012-004 Building Demolition, Earthworks and Site Remediation

One of the features of the new contract is a comprehensive and contemporary legal framework that is available for use by WALGA Members through the Preferred Supplier Panel. A workshop is being planned to share information about the new contract and guidance on the legal structure which has been developed.

Employee Relations

Union applications to amend the State Local Government Awards

On 27 February, WALGA was served with an application made by the Australian Services Union (ASU) to amend the Local Government Officers' (Western Australia) Award 2021 and the Municipal Employees (Western Australia) Award 2021 (State Local Government Awards). The ASU is seeking to include new terms and conditions of employment and replicate Federal employment entitlements in the State Local Government Awards. WALGA Employee Relations (ER) believes these applications can be leveraged to commence an award modernisation process which may take one to two years. This is consistent with feedback the ER team has received from the sector that the State Local Government Awards require modernisation to reflect contemporary terms and conditions of employment and to improve their readability so Local Governments can easily comply with award terms.

In March, the ER team wrote to all Local Governments informing them about the applications, explaining the process for responding to the applications and the steps WALGA will be taking to seek feedback and respond on behalf of Local Governments. The ER team is also in the process of developing a new State Award Working Group comprised of Local Government officers to act as an advisory group on the proposed award amendments.

Webinars

The ER team hosted three webinars in March and April 2023. The first webinar on 17 March was about managing union right of entry in the State industrial relations system and attracted 61 registrants. The webinar covered the key provisions in State employment legislation about right of entry and the practical steps Local Governments can take to manage their relationships with unions.

A second webinar was held on 22 March which attracted 90 registrants. The webinar was an information session on the ASU applications to amend the State Local Government Awards and the opportunities for the sector to provide feedback on the applications.

A third webinar was held on 4 April to deliver the key results of the 2023 WALGA Salary and Workforce Survey and it attracted over 75 registrants.

Sector engagement

The ER team has created a new LinkedIn group called the WALGA People and Culture Network in response to member feedback that members would like more ways to connect with their Local Government colleagues. Group members can use the group to share ideas, information, articles of interest, trends, current challenges and solutions. WALGA will also use the group to share information of interest with members.

The ER team held a monthly online meeting for Local Government People and Culture professionals on 3 April to share their current industrial agreement bargaining experiences and any other issues

relating to union relationships and right of entry. This is a new initiative being trialled by the ER team to create more opportunities for Local Governments to collaborate on HR/IR issues.

Governance and Procurement

ICT/ Cyber Security Project

The sector is conscious of information systems security and integrity following Office of the Auditor General performance audits in June 2020, November 2021, June 2022 and March 2023.

In response to the findings, WALGA has been in communication with Office of Digital Government (DGov) as a potential future stakeholder, to explore the potential for WALGA to facilitate Local Government access to the WA Cyber Security Unit, operated by DGov. As a consequence, WALGA will collaborate with DGov to prepare a Cyber Security Business Case for Ministerial submission and proposal, inclusive of the costs and benefits of providing Cyber Security Operations Centre resources for WALGA and its Members.

To facilitate the Business Case development necessary to make the Ministerial submission, WALGA has engaged a consultant who is currently surveying the sector. An important aspect of the consultancy will be obtaining valuable quantifiable information on systems and process perspective and experiences of our member Local Governments.

A survey released to the sector in March 2023 resulted in 70 responses, with additional focus group meetings being held with representatives of metropolitan and regional Local Governments.

Local Government Legislative Reform

The WA Minister for Local Government introduced the *Local Government Amendment Bill 2023* on 23 February.

The Amendment Bill includes the first tranche of the Ministers local government reform positions. The first tranche is focused on strengthening local democracy, providing greater transparency and accountability.

The *Local Government Amendment Bill 2023* passed the Legislative Assembly on 23 March and will now be debated in the Legislative Council.

The second tranche of reforms is expected towards the end of the 2023 calendar year and will include:

- Office of the Local Government Inspector including Monitors and a Conduct Panel replacing the current Standards Panel.
- Elected Member Superannuation
- Audit Committees – Requirement for an Independent Chair
- Streamlining Regional Subsidiaries
- WALGA's role in the Local Government Act

Training

CPP30719 Certificate III in Waste Management

WALGA staff are currently finalising the training and assessment resources for the Certificate III in Waste Management to add to our RTO scope of registration. We are planning to start delivering this qualification as a Traineeship and Fee for Service around September 2023.

Safety Representative Course with DMIRS

WALGA Training is now registered with the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) to deliver the Safety Representative Course. Over the next few weeks, we hope to start promoting this training service to our members across WA.

LGA30120 Certificate III in Local Government

The Certificate III in Local Government is now up and running with 19 students currently enrolled and working their way through their studies.

WALGA has also received future enquires and bookings for our April, July and October 2023 Intakes. The training team is working hard to ensure excellent student support and responsive replies to all enquiries. The feedback so far has been excellent with students and their supervisors impressed with the quality of our training materials.

Elected Member Training

Council Member Essential Training has slowed down which is typical for this time of the year whilst Professional Development and the workshops associated with the Diploma of Local Government – Elected Member are in full swing, with many elected members keen to graduate at this year's 2023 WALGA Convention.

Officer Training – Short Courses

Officer enrolments have been steady with particular interest in our Governance courses, capturing ongoing legislative changes and extending our course offerings to include a new Delegation and Authorisation course.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Mayor Logan Howlett JP
Seconded: President Cr Stephen Strange

That the Key Activities Report from the Member Services Portfolio to the May 2023 State Council meeting be noted.

RESOLUTION 456.2/2023

CARRIED

10.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio

Presented by Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the Key Activities Report from the Policy Portfolio to the May 2023 State Council meeting be noted.

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 March [Economic Briefing](#) was released on 28 March, providing information, data and analysis to assist Local Governments in preparing their budgets. The Briefing contained updated forecasts for the Local Government Cost Index (LGCI), which indicates that while costs are continuing to increase, the rate of growth is slowing. The LGCI was 6.4% in 2021-22 and is expected to increase by 4.5% in the 12 months to June 2023, 2.9% in 2023-24 and 2.4% in 2024-25.

WA Visitor Economy Strategy Engagement with Tourism WA

WALGA met with representatives of Tourism WA to provide input to the WA Visitor Economy Strategy that is under development. Issues discussed during the meeting include the importance of tourism to local economies, recent tourism trends, focus areas for the Strategy such as accommodation and transport infrastructure, and improving coordination across all regions.

Environment and Waste

Gascoyne Waste and Environment Summit

WALGA has been working with event sponsors the Shire of Shark Bay, Gascoyne Development Commission, Waste Authority and Containers for Change to bring the Waste and Environment Summit to Shark Bay on 11 May. Speakers include Hon. Darren West MLC, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Environment; Climate Action; Racing and Gaming; Simone Van Buerle, A/CEO Gascoyne Development Commission; Sheila McHale, Chair, and Tim Cusack, CEO, Containers for Change; and Tim Youé, Waste Authority. Participants will have the opportunity to workshop local waste management issues and opportunities with colleagues from across the region.

Local Biodiversity and Native Vegetation Management Project

WALGA is undertaking a Local Biodiversity and Native Vegetation Management Project with grant funding from the State Natural Resource Management (NRM) Program. The Project will assist Local Governments in the Southwest Ecoregion to undertake native vegetation assessments and develop local biodiversity policies and procedures. As part of the Project, WALGA will also develop training to assist Local Governments to understand and navigate native vegetation clearing regulation requirements. Local Governments will be able to apply for grants of up to \$20,000 to undertake these activities, with applications opening in late April 2023.

Planning and Building

Medium Density Code

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) released the Medium Density Code in early March 2023 with a delayed gazettal date of 1 September 2023. On 28 March WALGA hosted an Elected Members webinar on the new Code. WALGA will also facilitate Local Government officer training sessions for DPLH on the new Code in April 2023.

Planning Reform

DPLH has released several planning reform projects this quarter for public consultation. Consultation responses have been provided on the draft *Region Scheme Regulations 2022* and the use and application of discretion for Development Applications reform project.

A consultation response was also provided to the Department of Water and Environment Regulations (DWER) on the draft *Environmental Protection Regulations 2022* which exempt prescribed classes of planning scheme amendments from referral and assessment by the Environmental Protection Authority. WALGA has called for reform to the EPA's scheme amendment referral process since 2020.

Submissions will also be provided on Consistent Local Planning Schemes and Car Parking requirements, *State Planning Policy 3.7 Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas*, and *Development Control Policy 2.3 Public Open Space in Residential Areas*, which are all scheduled for release in April 2023.

Energy Efficiency Compliance Guidance

In 2022, WALGA prepared a discussion paper to identify actions that WALGA and Local Governments can take to achieve strategic objectives related to energy efficient buildings and help implement the Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings and associated changes to the National Construction Code.

One of the priority recommendations identified in WALGA's discussion paper, and through consultation with Local Governments, State and Commonwealth Agencies, was to provide training to help Local Government building teams assess compliance of energy reports submitted with building permit applications. WALGA, in collaboration with LGIS, has now obtained specialist advice to determine the role of permit authorities in scrutinising energy assessment reports submitted with building permit applications, and has provided this advice to Local Governments.

Mandatory Inspections of Residential Dwellings During Construction

In 2019, WALGA adopted a policy position supporting the mandatory inspection of residential dwellings during different stages of construction. Over the coming months, the Minister for Commerce will consider a package of building reforms that includes mandatory inspections. WALGA recently discussed its policy position with the Minister's office and established a working group of Local Government building team representatives to prepare implementation options to present to the Minister's office in support of this important building system reform.

Resilient Communities

State Emergency Management Committee

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) met on 8 March, attended by WALGA CEO Nick Sloan. The SEMC approved allocation of \$40,000 to WALGA through the State Level Project Fund to undertake consultation with Local Government on the Western Australian Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Emergency Management which will be developed during 2023-24.

Current SEMC consultations include:

- The draft [Local Emergency Management Committee Handbook](#), due Tuesday 18 April.
- The draft [State Support Plan - Emergency Relief and Support](#) (formerly the State Support Plan: Emergency Welfare), due Wednesday 26 April.

Recent WALGA submissions to SEMC consultations include:

- WALGA's submission on the draft Western Australian Disaster Resilience Strategy, which was endorsed at the [March 2023 State Council meeting](#) and submitted on 3 March; and
- Correspondence from the WALGA President on the revised State Capability Framework, sent on 3 March 2023.

Section 33 Firebreak Notice Guidance

WALGA and DFES have prepared a draft Guidance Note to support Local Governments to produce an effective and enforceable fire-break notice, based on a review of current notices and feedback from Local Government officers. The Guidance Note is expected to be finalised for publication by May 2023.

Local Emergency Management Arrangements Improvement Plan

WALGA has been working with DFES to finalise a Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) improvement plan, to implement the findings from the LEMA Review. A grant application was submitted to the Commonwealth Disaster Ready Fund in March 2023, to support DFES and WALGA to undertake Phase Two of the project. Implementation of the LEMA Review is a priority identified in the WALGA Strategic Policy Register 2023.

National Disaster Resilience Grants 2023

The National Disaster Risk Reduction Grants 2023 open on 24 April and close on 29 May. Information is available [here](#).

Incident Review Reports

The After Actions Review Reports for [Severe Cyclone Seroja](#) that impacted much of the Midwest and surrounds in April 2021, and the [Adverse Weather Event](#) with four concurrent Level 3 bushfire incidents in February 2022, have been released by DFES.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Legislation

The new *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* will commence on 1 July 2023. WALGA is working with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) to deliver an education session webinar for the sector to discuss the operation of the legislation and supporting materials and guidelines. DPLH will also be delivering regional information session during May 2023.

Disability Services Act Reform

The Department of Communities has developed a [Consultation Paper](#) to seek feedback on proposed reform to this legislation, and is seeking feedback on the principles applicable to people with disability, appropriate safeguards for people with disability, the access and inclusion needs of people with disability and ongoing service provision for specific cohorts. Of particular relevance to Local Governments is access and inclusion planning. WALGA will develop a sector submission for consideration by State Council at the July meeting and is establishing a sector reference group to guide submission development.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Mayor Logan Howlett JP
Seconded: President Cr Stephen Strange

That the Key Activities Report from the Policy Portfolio to the May 2023 State Council meeting be noted.

RESOLUTION 456.2/2023

CARRIED

Cr Catherine Ehrhardt left the meeting at 1:29pm.

10.2 President's Report

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Phil Blight
Seconded: Cr Les Price

That the President's Report for May 2023 be received.

RESOLUTION 457.2/2023

CARRIED

10.3 CEO's Report

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Phil Blight
Seconded: Cr Les Price

That the CEO's Report for May 2023 be received.

RESOLUTION 457.2/2023

CARRIED

10.4 Ex-Officio Reports

10.4.1 City of Perth Report

The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas is an apology.

10.4.2 LG Professional's Report

Ms Annie Riordan, President, LG Professionals WA, provided a report to the meeting.

Cr Catherine Ehrhardt returned to the meeting at 1:36pm.

11. ADDITIONAL ZONE RESOLUTIONS

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Les Price
Seconded: President Cr Phil Blight

That the additional Zone Resolutions from the April 2023 round of Zone meetings as follows be referred to the appropriate policy area for consideration and appropriate action, noting that some may have already been referred.

RESOLUTION 458.2/2023

CARRIED

CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE (Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team)

Financial Burden to Local Governments of Optional Preferential Voting

That WALGA forms a policy position and advocates that:

1. any Western Australian Electoral Commission fee increases for the 2023 Local Government elections are capped at 10% when compared with the 2021 rates; and
2. the CountWA software from Western Australian Electoral Commission is provided to Local Governments free of charge for the 2023 and subsequent Local Government elections.

MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE (Policy Portfolio)

Natural Disaster Relief Funding for Flood Damage Road Restoration Works

That with regard to natural disaster relief, specifically for flood damage road restoration works, WALGA continue to lobby DFES for:

1. improved efficiencies in the assessment, processing, and acquittal payments; or
2. a systemic change in the way claims are managed that improves the whole process.

NORTH METROPOLITAN ZONE (Environment and Waste Policy Team)

Community Batteries Report Request

That the North Metropolitan Zone requests WALGA to prepare a report for the June North Metropolitan Zone meeting on:

1. commitment and progress of Community batteries under the 'Power to the People' Federal Government initiative showing targeted suburbs and completion timelines; and
2. outline synergies with household solar panels within targeted suburbs and cheaper power via the Community batteries from households feeding solar generated power into the community battery and using stored power during agreed usage timeframe; and
3. include the issue of cost to homeowners who seek to get power back from the community battery.

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, 5 July commencing at 4:15pm.

13. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 1:43pm.

STATUS REPORT ON STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS To the May 2023 State Council Meeting

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
1 March 2023 Item 7.1 Proposed Advocacy Position on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People	That WALGA: 1. Supports respectful conversations about constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and the Voice to Parliament. 2. Requests that the Commonwealth Government ensure that Local Governments and communities are kept informed on the proposal. RESOLUTION 418.1/2023	WALGA will continue to keep the Local Government sector informed of progress towards the Referendum on an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.	Ongoing	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy
1 March 2023 Item 7.2 Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Submission	That the Submission on the draft Western Australian Community Disaster Resilience Strategy be endorsed, incorporating the following points: 1. Guidance on donation management during a disaster, recovery from a disaster and ongoing; 2. Additional detail on the State's role, the funding that is required and how support can be accessed; 3. Acknowledgment that the role of volunteer bush fire brigade members is focused on response, and that resilience training is better targeted to support agencies and community groups assisting with disaster recovery. Any training requirements for brigade members should be voluntary. RESOLUTION 419.1/2023	The Submission was submitted to the State Emergency Management Committee on Thursday 2 March.	2 March 2023	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy
1 March 2023 Item 7.3 Child Safeguarding Advocacy Position	That the Child Safeguarding Advocacy Position as follows be endorsed: <i>Child Safeguarding</i> 1. <i>Local Government supports:</i> a. <i>the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse 2017, in particular Recommendation 6.12 which can be achieved by Local Government implementing and embedding child safeguarding across its functions with</i>	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.		Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
	<p><i>support from Governments at the national, state and territory levels; and</i></p> <p><i>b. the ten National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (Australian Humans Rights Commission).</i></p> <p><i>2. The State Government through an Independent Oversight Body should provide financial, resourcing and capacity building support to Local Governments to implement and embed child safeguarding across its functions, through the provision of:</i></p> <p><i>a. supporting materials such as template policies, procedures and guidelines;</i></p> <p><i>b. consistent key messaging and resources to promote and share in venues and facilities and online;</i></p> <p><i>c. examples of best practice, including case studies;</i></p> <p><i>d. self-assessment tools to assist Local Government;</i></p> <p><i>e. ongoing training and skills development for Local Government staff, including online training options;</i></p> <p><i>f. funding for the delivery of the child safeguarding function within smaller, less well resourced (Band 3 and Band 4) Local Governments; and</i></p> <p><i>g. expert officers within each region to provide support and guidance to Local Government on child safeguarding.</i></p> <p><i>3. The Local Government sector supports Local Government participation in the State's National Redress Scheme, with full financial coverage by the State.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 420.1/2023</p>			

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
1 March 2023 Item 7.4 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	In progress.	Ongoing	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy
1 March 2023 Item 7.5 Main Roads Draft Roadside Advertising Policy and Application Guidelines	1. That WALGA endorse the Main Roads Draft Roadside Advertising Policy and Applications Guidelines in full; and 2. That the WALGA administration draft a submission to reflect its support. RESOLUTION 423.1/2023	A letter has been sent to Main Roads WA reflecting the decision of WALGA State Council.	April 2023	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure
1 March 2023 Item 7.6 Best Practice Governance Review Final Report	That: 1. The Best Practice Governance Review Stage 3 Final Report be received; 2. The proposed changes to WALGA's governance structure as per the revised Model 1, detailed in the Stage 3 Final Report, be noted; 3. Members be engaged on the detail of the model and a Final Report be presented to the May 2023 State Council meeting for consideration; 4. Any recommendation to the 2023 AGM include Option 5 as the Current Model and Option 1 as an alternative to the Current Model; and 5. Subject to points 1, 2, 3 and 4 above, constitutional changes be developed for consideration by State Council. RESOLUTION 424.1/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations 1 and 2 are noted • Recommendation 3 has been actioned and Members have been engaged on the detail of model 1. An agenda item has been prepared for the May 2023 State Council meeting. • Recommendations 4 and 5 are noted and will be actioned dependent on item 3. 	Ongoing	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
1 March 2023 Item 7.7 Finance and Services Committee Minutes – 15 February 2023	That the Minutes of the Finance and Services Committee meeting held on 15 February 2023 be endorsed. RESOLUTION 425.1/2023	Items have been actioned.	March 2023	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
1 March 2023 Item 7.8 Selection Committee Minutes – 23 February 2023	That the recommendations contained in the 23 February 2023 Selection Committee Minutes be endorsed. RESOLUTION 426.1/2023	Items have been actioned.	March 2023	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
1 March 2023 Item 7.10 LGIS Board Tenure	That State Council endorse the reappointment of Cr Paul Kelly as a Director of the LGIS Board for a three-year term upon the expiry of his current term. RESOLUTION 428.1/2023	This item has been actioned.	March 2023	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
1 March 2023 Item 7.12 Appointments to State Council Policy Teams and Committees	That: 1. Cr David Lagan be appointed to the Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team; 2. Mayor Patrick Hall be appointed to the Finance and Services Committee; 3. Mayor Mark Irwin be appointed to the Metropolitan Representative position on the Local Government House Trust; and 4. Mayor Patrick Hall be appointed to the Metropolitan State Councillor position on the Local Government House Trust. RESOLUTION 430.1/2023	Appointments have been actioned.	March 2023	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
7 December 2022 Item 5.1 2022 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	That: 1. the following resolutions from the 2022 WALGA Annual General Meeting be endorsed for action: 3.8 Review of the Rating Methodology used by the Valuer-General <i>Advocate for a full review of the rating methodology used by the Valuer-General to value all land in the State of Western Australia.</i>	In relation to item 3.8 Review of the Rating Methodology used by the Valuer-General, a letter has been sent to the Minister for Lands (with a copy also sent to the Minister for Local Government). In relation to item 3.10 Reform of the <i>Cat Act 2011</i> , a letter has been sent to the Minister for Local Government on this issue.	Ongoing	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
	<p>3.10 Reform of the <i>Cat Act 2011</i> <i>That the WA Local Government sector requests the WA State Government prioritise reforms to the Cat Act 2011, in accordance with the Statutory Review undertaken and tabled in the State Parliament on 27 November 2019.</i></p> <p>2. 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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <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>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"> 1. <i>Reviewing car parking standards for schools;</i> 2. <i>Ensuring sufficient land is set aside for the provision of parking on school sites;</i> 3. <i>Reviewing the co-location of schools to avoid issues being exacerbated;</i> 4. <i>Restricting school access from major roads;</i> 5. <i>Developing plans to enable schools to manage school traffic;</i> 6. <i>Develop programs to educate drivers; and</i> 	<p>In relation to item 3.1 Road Traffic Issues, the Infrastructure Policy Team resolved:</p> <p><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>In relation to item 3.2 Car Parking and Traffic Congestion Around Schools, the Infrastructure Policy Team resolved:</p> <p><i>That WALGA uses its role at the Safe Active Travel to School Working Group to advocate for these outcomes and provide advice back to the Local Government sector.</i></p> <p>In relation to item 3.3 Proposal for Regional Road Maintenance Contracts with Main Roads WA, the Infrastructure Policy Team resolved:</p> <p><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>In relation to item 3.4 Northern Australia Beef Roads Program, the Infrastructure Policy Team resolved:</p> <p><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>In relation to item 3.6 South West Native Title Settlement, WALGA is preparing a formal letter to Anthony Kannis, Director General of Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) requesting:</p>		

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
	<p>7. <i>Develop options and implement initiatives to encourage alternative modes of transport to school.</i></p> <p>3.3 Proposal for Regional Road Maintenance Contracts with Main Roads WA <i>That WALGA assist Local Governments and work with the Hon Minister Rita Saffioti to introduce a similar program that is currently in play in Queensland and introduce a sole invitee Program for Local Governments to engage in a Road Maintenance Performance Contract with Main Roads WA.</i></p> <p>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></p> <p>3.5 3D House Printing Building Compliance <i>That WALGA requests:</i></p> <p>1. <i>Assistance from Minister for Industry and Science The Hon Ed Husic MP, Minister for Housing and Homelessness, Small Business The Hon Julie Collins MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government The Hon Catherine King MP to work with Ministers from all State and Territory Governments who have Building and Construction in their portfolios, to collaborate and to consider removing impediments within the National Construction Code Series and</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A full list of potential land parcels that will be eligible for transfer as part of the Southwest Native Title Settlement to enable Local Governments to undertake early due diligence on the identified land, • The consultation timeframe is increased for consideration of parcels of land for transfer from 40 days to 90 days (3 months) 		

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	<p><i>associated Australian Standards, that dissuade industry from adopting 3D printing as a building method.</i></p> <p>2. <i>That the Government provide instruments to incentivise private industry to develop 3D printing and include this as an acceptable building practice.</i></p> <p>3.6 <i>South West Native Title Settlement That WALGA advocate to the State Government that Local Governments be provided with the full list of potential land to be requested for transfer as part of the South West Native Title Settlement and that a minimum of three months be provided for Council to provide feedback.</i></p> <p>3.7 <i>Land Offset Compensation to Local Governments That WALGA advocate to the State Government that the Developer requiring land offsets should be required to provide the offsets within the Local Government where the clearing occurs and where this is not possible, the Developer requiring land offsets within another Local Government be required to pay a fee to the Local Government for the loss of rates and ongoing maintenance of infrastructure to the Land.</i></p> <p>3.12.1 <i>Abandoned Shopping Trolleys That this meeting supports the recent petition to be tabled in the Legislative Council, Parliament of Western Australia, "Removal and Abandonment of Shopping Trolleys 22-0017" calling on the State Government to implement stringent and uniform shopping trolley containment laws for the whole state of Western Australia.</i></p>			

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
	<p>3. the following resolutions from the 2022 WALGA Annual General Meeting be noted:</p> <p>3.11 WALGA Best Practice Governance Review – Principles</p> <p><i>That:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>The update on the Best Practice Governance Review project be noted, and</i> 2. <i>The principles to inform WALGA’s future governance model, as follows and as per the attached Principles document, be endorsed:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Representative – WALGA unites and represents the entire Local Government sector in WA and understands the diverse nature and needs of members, regional communities and economies.</i> b. <i>Responsive – WALGA is an agile association which acts quickly to respond to the needs of members and stakeholders.</i> c. <i>Results Oriented – WALGA dedicates resources and efforts to secure the best outcomes for Local Government and supports the delivery of high-quality projects, programs and services.</i> <p>3.12.2 Mandatory Superannuation for Elected Members in Band 1 and 2 Councils</p> <p><i>That this meeting supports requesting WALGA to advocate for the Local Government reforms to include mandatory superannuation for elected members of Band 1 and Band 2 Councils and supports the optional payment of superannuation for Band 3 and 4 Councils.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 394.8/2022</p>			

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
7 December 2022 Item 8 Additional Zone Resolutions – Zone items relating to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament	That State Council: 1. Supports a robust and respectful national debate on constitutional recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and requests the Commonwealth Government provide further details on the proposed Voice to Parliament. 2. Requests that the Commonwealth Government ensure that Local Governments and local communities across WA are meaningfully engaged with on this issue. 3. Requests WALGA prepare an advocacy position in support of constitutional recognition to be circulated to WALGA Zones for their next meeting for consideration and feedback. RESOLUTION 415.8/2022	An item for decision on the Voice to Parliament and Referendum on constitutional recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders was considered at the March 2023 State Council meeting.	March 2023	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy
1 December 2021 Item 5.3 2021 Annual General Meeting	That: 1. The following resolutions from the 2021 WALGA Annual General Meeting be endorsed for action: <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. ... RESOLUTION 294.7/2021	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 here .	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure
3 September 2021 Item 6.1 Stop Puppy Farming Legislation	1. That the update on the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2021 be noted. 2. That: a. any additional costs incurred by a Local Government in administering the Dog Act be paid by the State Government; and b. the Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed bi-annually and at minimum, be adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index. RESOLUTION 275.5/2021	Correspondence has been sent to the Minister for Local Government advising of resolution 2.	Ongoing	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services