

# Great Eastern Country Zone Minutes

## 13 November 2025

Hosted by the Shire of Kellerberrin  
(Kellerberrin Recreation & Leisure Centre)

## ZONE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The following items are the Zone's priority issues, as resolved at the February 2024 Zone meeting:

- Regional Health Services to include:
  - Hospitals
  - Aged Care
  - Future of Nurse Practitioner Service
- St John Ambulance Service – Impact on Volunteers and the provision of the service generally.
- Regional Subsidiaries
- Transport – Road Network
- Telecommunications
- Education
- Review of GROH Housing and Regional Housing issues
- Waste Management
- Agricultural Land Use

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## ATTACHMENTS

The following were provided as attachments to the Agenda:

1. Item 9.3 Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt
2. Item 10.2 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee
3. Item 11.3 November Executive Committee Minutes
4. Item 12.2 (a) Audit Management letter and (b) Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2025
5. Item 14.1 WALGA President's Report
6. Item 15 WALGA State Council Agenda ([also available on the WALGA website](#)).

## 1. OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

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### 1.1. OPENING

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The Executive Officer, acting as Chair, opened the meeting at 9.30 am.

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### 1.2. ATTENDANCE

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MEMBERS	2 Voting Delegates from each Member Council
<b>Shire of Bruce Rock</b>	President Cr Ramesh Rajagopalan
	Cr Stephen Strange
	Mr Mark Furr, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Cunderdin</b>	President Cr Alison Harris
	Mr Stuart Hobley, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Dowerin</b>	Mrs Manisha Barthakur, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Kellerberrin</b>	Cr Emily Ryan, Deputy President
	Mr Raymond Griffiths, Chief Executive Officer, voting delegate
<b>Shire of Kondinin</b>	Mr Bruce Wright, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Koorda</b>	President Cr Jannah Stratford
<b>Shire of Merredin</b>	President Cr Donna Crook
	Deputy President, Cr Renee Manning

<b>Shire of Mount Marshall</b>	President Cr Tony Sachse
<b>Shire of Narembeen</b>	President Cr Holly Cusak
	Deputy President, Cr Hannah Bald
<b>Shire of Nungarin</b>	President Cr Pippa de Lacy
	Cr Carl Stobie
<b>Shire of Tammin</b>	Cr Tanya Nicholls
	Mr Andrew Malone, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Trayning</b>	President Cr Melanie Brown
	Mr Peter Naylor, Chief Executive Officer, non voting
<b>Shire of Westonia</b>	President Cr Mark Crees
	Mr Bill Price, Chief Executive Officer
<b>Shire of Wyalkatchem</b>	President Cr Christy Petchell
	Mr Ian McCabe, A/Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Yilgarn</b>	President Cr Bryan Close
	Cr Donna Newbury
	Mr Nic Warren, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

<b>GUESTS</b>	
<b>Main Roads WA</b>	Mr Yogesh Shinde, Network/Asset Manager and Ms Liz Davies, Stakeholder Engagement Manager
<b>Regional Development Australia WA</b>	Mr Josh Pomykala, Director Regional Development
<b>Wheatbelt Development Commission</b>	Mr Rob Cossart, Chief Executive Officer
<b>Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee</b>	Ms Shelby Robinson, District Emergency Management Advisor
<b>CBH Group</b>	Ms Kellie Todman, Manager Governance and Industry Relations Ms Emma Haak, Planning and Approval Lead

<b>WALGA</b>
Mr Sam McLeod, Manager Commercial Services
Ms Meghan Dwyer, Governance Specialist
Ms Habiba Farrag, State Council Governance Officer

### 1.3. APOLOGIES

#### MEMBERS

<b>Shire of Dowerin</b>	President Cr Darrel Hudson
	Cr Ashley Jones
<b>Shire of Kondinin</b>	President Cr Kent Mouritz
<b>Shire of Koorda</b>	Deputy President, Cr Gary Greaves
	Mr Zac Donovan, Chief Executive Officer, deputy voting delegate
<b>Shire of Merredin</b>	Mr Craig Watts, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Mount Marshall</b>	Deputy President, Cr Nick Gillett
	Mr Ben McKay, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Mukinbudin</b>	President Cr Gary Shadbolt
	Ms Tanika McLennan, A/Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Narembeen</b>	Ms Rebecca McCall, Chief Executive Officer, deputy voting delegate
<b>Shire of Nungarin</b>	Cr Gary Coumbe
	Mr David Nayda, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Tammin</b>	President Cr Charmaine Thomson
<b>Shire of Westonia</b>	Deputy President, Cr Ross Della Bosca
<b>Shire of Wyalkatchem</b>	Deputy President Cr Mischa Stratford

#### GUESTS

<b>Water Corporation</b>	Ms Rebecca Bowler, Manager Customer & Stakeholder – Goldfields & Agricultural Region
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#### MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Hon Melissa Price MP, Member for Durack
Mr Rick Wilson MP, Member for O'Connor
Hon Steve Martin MLC
Mr Lachlan Hunter MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt - apology
Mr Peter Rundle MLA, Member for Roe

<b>WALGA</b>
Ms Tracey Peacock, Regional Road Safety Advisor

## 2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We, the Great Eastern Country Zone of WALGA acknowledge the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

## 3. ELECTIONS

Pursuant to the WALGA Constitution, the Secretariat, Mr Sam McLeod (Executive Officer) will be responsible for conducting the election of office bearers, State Council Representatives and Deputy State Council Representatives.

### 3.1. ELECTIONS OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY ZONE

The election for the Chair and Deputy Chair shall be conducted and the term set at two years expiring in November 2027, in line with the terms of State Council representatives and in sync with Local Government Elections.

#### 3.1.1. ZONE CHAIR

Written nominations may be provided to the Secretariat prior to the commencement of the Zone meeting.

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. If more than one nomination is received, ballot papers will be distributed and a secret ballot conducted.

#### DECLARATION

**That President Cr Tony Sachse is elected as Chair of the Great Eastern Country Zone for the term of 2 years, November 2025 to November 2027.**

#### 3.1.2. DEPUTY ZONE CHAIR

Written nominations may be provided to the Secretariat prior to the commencement of the Zone meeting.

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. If more than one nomination is received, ballot papers will be distributed and a secret ballot conducted.

#### DECLARATION

**That President Cr Melanie Brown is elected as Deputy Chair of the Great Eastern Country Zone for the term of 2 years, November 2025 to November 2027.**



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## **3.2. ELECTIONS OF STATE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES AND DEPUTY STATE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY ZONE**

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In accordance with sub-clause 9(3) of the WALGA Constitution, representatives and deputy representatives to the State Council shall be elected by Zones of the Metropolitan and Country constituencies for two (2) year terms, commencing from the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2025 and concluding on the day before the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2027.

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

### **3.2.1. STATE COUNCILLOR**

Written nominations may be provided to the Secretariat prior to the commencement of the Zone meeting.

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

In accordance with the guidelines endorsed by State Council, candidates will be afforded the opportunity to make a 2 minute election bid prior to the secret ballot being taken.

If more than one nomination is received, ballot papers will be distributed and a secret ballot conducted.

### **DECLARATION**

That Cr Stephen Strange is elected as State Council Representative of the Great Eastern Country Zone to the State Council for the term of 2 years, December 2025 to December 2027.

### **3.2.2. DEPUTY STATE COUNCILLOR**

Written nominations may be provided to the Secretariat prior to the commencement of the Zone meeting.

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

If more than one nomination is received, ballot papers will be distributed and a secret ballot conducted.

### **DECLARATION**

That President Cr Tony Sachse is elected as Deputy State Council Representatives of the Great Eastern Country Zone to the State Council for the term of 2 years, December 2025 to December 2027.

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### 3.3. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY ZONE

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#### 3.3.1. AMENDMENT TO GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY ZONE CONSTITUTION

The Great Eastern Country Zone Constitution prescribes the following regarding the membership of the Executive Committee:

*The Zone Executive Committee shall consist of a maximum of five persons, being:*

- a) President, ex-officio;*
- b) Deputy President, ex-officio;*
- c) Representative to State Council, ex-officio, if not President or Deputy President;*  
*and*
- d) two or three Delegates elected from Ordinary Members, as necessary.*

The following changes are recommended for consideration prior to the election of Executive Committee Member, to reflect existing arrangements.

#### RESOLUTION

**Mover:** Shire of Cunderdin

**Seconder:** Shire of Bruce Rock

**That clause 13.1 of the Great Eastern Country Zone Constitution be amended as follows:**

*The Zone Executive Committee shall consist of a maximum of ~~five~~ six persons, being:*

- a) President, ex-officio;*
- b) Deputy President, ex-officio;*
- c) Representative to State Council, ex-officio, if not President or Deputy President; and*
- d) Deputy Representative to State Council, ex-officio, if not President or Deputy President;*
- e) ~~two or three~~ Delegates elected from Ordinary Members, as necessary to fill six positions.*

**CARRIED**

#### 3.3.2. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The election for the Zone Executive Committee representatives shall be conducted and the term set at two years expiring in November 2025, in line with the terms of Zone Delegates and in sync with Local Government Elections.

Nominations will be taken from the floor.

Should a ballot be required, nominees will be afforded the opportunity to provide a two (2) minute election bid.

The candidates with the greater number of votes will be elected.

## DECLARATION

That President Cr Mark Crees and President Cr Alison Harris and President Cr Pippa de Lacy are declared elected as Zone Executive Committee representative for the term of 2 years, November 2025 to November 2027.

The person elected as Chair of the Great Eastern Country Zone will assume the role of Presiding Member following the elections.

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### 3.4. WHEATBELT DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE / WHEATBELT OPERATIONAL AREA SUPPORT COMMITTEE OF THE GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY ZONE – 1 DELEGATE AND 1 DEPUTY DELEGATE

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The election for the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee/ Wheatbelt Operational Area Support Group Committee delegates of the Great Eastern Country Zone shall be conducted.

Nominations will be taken from the floor.

Should a ballot be required, nominees will be afforded the opportunity to provide a two (2) minute election bid.

The candidates with the greater number of votes will be elected.

## DECLARATION

That President Cr Tony Sachse be elected as the Delegate for the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee Delegate/Wheatbelt Operational Area Support Group Committee of the Great Eastern Country Zone.

### **Secretariat Note: Temporary Filling of Vacancy**

No nominations were received for the role of Deputy Delegate before or at the election. Accordingly, the vacancy was held over for an election at a later time.

However, following the close of the meeting, an expression of interest was received from **Cr Emily Ryan** of the Shire of Kellerberrin.

Accordingly, it is proposed that Cr Ryan act as the Deputy Delegate, with a formal appointment to be considered by the Zone at its February meeting.

#### 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Elected Members must declare to the Chairman any potential conflict of interest they have in a matter before the Zone as soon as they become aware of it. Councillors and deputies may be directly or indirectly associated with some recommendations of the Zone and State Council. If you are affected by these recommendations, please excuse yourself from the meeting and do not participate in deliberations.

Nil.

#### 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nil.

#### 6. LOCAL GOVERNMENT 'VIRTUAL HOST'

A Zone member Local Government is invited to make a short (10 minutes) presentation on what is occurring in their Local Government.

The Shire of Nungarin made a presentation at the meeting.

The Shire of Trayning is invited to make a presentation to the next Zone meeting, in February.

#### 7. GUEST SPEAKERS

##### *Guest Speaker Protocols*

- *The main speaker or keynote address to the Zone will be generally 30 minutes with 15 minutes for questions*
- *Other guest speakers will have a time limit of 20 minutes with 10 minutes for questions.*

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#### 7.1. SPEAKERS FOR THE NOVEMBER ZONE MEETING

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##### 7.1.1. WALGA

Sam McLeod, Zone Executive Officer provided a presentation to Zone Delegates on the role of WALGA, WALGA Zones and Zone Delegates.

**Noted.**

## 8. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Nil.

## 9. AGENCY REPORTS

### *Agency Reports Protocols*

*The Zone appreciates and prefers written updates (circulated with the agenda) wherever possible. Agency representatives are invited to make brief (5 minute) remarks if the speaker wishes to provide context or a further update on a specific matter.*

*The Zone appreciates if time can be left for questions, typically for around 10 minutes. Briefings on a significant policy proposal or contentious topic are to be dealt with by the agency representative attending as a Guest or Keynote Speaker (item 6).*

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### 9.1. DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY REGULATION AND SAFETY

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The Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety report was distributed to Zone Delegates on Wednesday, 13 November.

**Noted.**

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### 9.2. WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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*Mr Rob Cossart, Chief Executive Officer provided a verbal update.*

**Noted.**

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### 9.3. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA WHEATBELT

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*Josh Pomykala, Director Regional Development provided a verbal update and answered questions from delegates.*

The RDAW report was distributed with the Agenda.

**Noted.**

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### 9.4. MAIN ROADS WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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*Yogesh Shinde, Network/Asset Manager and Liz Davis, Stakeholder Engagement Manager provided a verbal update and answered questions from delegates.*

Delegates raised matters regarding Great Eastern Highway. An action was later resolved under Item 16.1.

**Noted.**

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## 9.5. WATER CORPORATION

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*Rebecca Bowler, Manager Customer and Stakeholder was an apology to the meeting.*

**Noted.**

## 10. OTHER REPORTS

*Protocols are as per Agency Reports protocols.*

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### 10.1. CBH

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*Kelly Todman, Manager - Govt & Industry Relations and Emma Haak, Planning and Approval Lead provided a verbal update and answered questions from delegates.*

Kelly introduced Ms Haak to the Zone.

**Noted.**

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### 10.2. WHEATBELT DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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*Shelby Robinson, Wheatbelt DEMC provided a verbal update and answered questions from delegates.*

The Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee report was distributed with the Agenda.

**Noted.**

## 11. MINUTES

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### 11.1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY ZONE MEETING HELD ON 6 AUGUST 2025

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The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on 6 August 2025 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

#### RESOLUTION

**Mover:** Shire of Westonia  
**Seconder:** Shire of Bruce Rock

**That the Minutes of the meeting of the Great Eastern Country Zone held on 6 August 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**

**CARRIED**

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## 11.2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY ZONE MEETING HELD ON 6 AUGUST 2025

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### 11.2.1. 2026 FACE TO FACE TRAINING

Training bookings have been secured for the dates below, all to be hosted by the Shire of Westonia.

Block	Units	Dates
Block 1 2 days	Understanding Local Government; Conflict of Interest; Meeting Procedures	Thursday, 5 February and Friday, 6 February 2026
Block 2 2 days	Serving on Council	Thursday, 19 February and Friday, 20 February 2026
Block 3 1 day	Understanding Financial Reports and Budgets	Monday, 9 March 2026

Expressions of interest to attend this free face-to-face training are now open.

**All Zone Councillors are now invited to register their interest to attend one or more blocks of training at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/gecz26training>.**

**Expressions of interest are essential and must be lodged by noon on 24 November 2025.**

As this training is funded by the Zone and generously hosted by the Shire of Westonia, there are no training fees payable to attend this training, but places are limited.

If you are elected to the Council of a Local Government in the Zone, you are welcome to register your interest in attending one or more of the above blocks. Your input will be used to allocate registrations for each block of training.

If interest exceeds the number of available places, places will be allocated with the aim of balancing attendance among Zone Local Governments.

**Noted.**

### 11.2.2. ZONE DELEGATION

The delegation is now planned for the week commencing Monday, 8 June 2026, to align with a Parliamentary sitting week. A workshop to scope and plan the delegation is scheduled for the morning of Wednesday, 25 November, to be held in Kellerberrin.

A pre-briefing for delegation members with Hon Mia Davies (previously a Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, and the Member for Central Wheatbelt), is scheduled for 17 November 2025, to be held via Teams.

The results of the survey distributed to Zone members will inform the planning of the delegation. All newly-elected Zone Executive Committee members will be invited to attend the above.

**Noted.**

### **11.2.3. REVIEW OF ZONE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

Following the Zone Delegation Workshop on 25 November 2025, a short overview of the results of the Zone Priorities Survey will be put to the February Zone meeting. This will also be an opportunity for the Delegation to provide an update to the Zone on the intended engagement activities.

**Noted.**

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### **11.3. MINUTES OF THE GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY ZONE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4 NOVEMBER 2025**

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The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on 4 November 2025 are provided as an attachment (Attachment 3)

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Mover: Shire of Nungarin**

**Seconder: Shire of Trayning**

**That the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on 4 November 2025 be received.**

**CARRIED**

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### **11.4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4 NOVEMBER 2025**

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#### **11.4.1. POTENTIAL REPRESENTATION AT LOCAL GOVERNMENT HOUSING FORUM, THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA**

Just prior to the recent Executive Committee meeting, Executive Committee Members raised interest in the Zone being represented at the upcoming Local Government Housing Forum, to be held in Canberra on 27 November 2025.

The Forum is being hosted by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), with details as follows:

Local Government Housing Forum is being held on Thursday 27 November 2025 at the Australian Parliament House Theatre, Canberra.

The Forum will run from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm, followed by a cocktail reception. The cocktail reception will include the 'Parliamentary Friends of Local Government' as co-hosted by Jamie Chaffey MP and Trish Cook MP and attended by Ministers and parliamentarians.



The Housing Forum will bring together local government leaders, the housing sector, and key decision-makers to discuss practical solutions to Australia's housing challenges. The program will include:

- A Ministers' Forum featuring the Hon Clare O'Neil MP, Minister for Housing, Homelessness and Cities and the Hon Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories and Minister for Emergency Management
- The launch of the Australian Community Housing and ALGA Guide for Local Government on the Delivery of Affordable Housing, spotlighting council case studies and innovative approaches to enabling infrastructure and housing delivery
- Treasury representatives to present on the Government's Enabling Infrastructure Programs
- A networking cocktail reception, with canapés and drinks, providing the opportunity for engagement with federal ministers, sector leaders, and council representatives.

These events are offered to Local Governments to at no cost. We welcome attendance from elected representatives, or your relevant key staff who would find value in the forum.

Initial indications are that the cost to travel to the event would be around \$2,500 per person, assuming economy seats on the direct flights, and noting that the costs will increase if booked closer to the date.

The Zone's 2025-26 current budget does not have a specific expense line item or allocation that could neatly be used for this without impacting another initiative, but it is open to the Zone to draw on cash reserves for this purpose.

The closing date for registrations is on Friday 14 November, with the Zone meeting falling on the day prior (13 November). WALGA's Executive Manager, Policy (Ms Nicole Matthews) will be travelling to the event and can accompany any Zone delegate(s) to the event. Given the tight timeframe, opportunities to organise other engagements as part of the trip will be limited.

It appears that one or two members of the Zone's previous Executive Committee may be available to attend.

The potential for an allocation for such engagement opportunities (for this kind of situation) could be considered in the 2026-27 Zone budget.

The Executive Committee discussed the item and agreed to provide options for attendance to the Zone meeting.

Proposed options are:

1. The Zone funds **one** delegate to attend the Forum
2. The Zone funds **two** delegates to attend the Forum
3. The Zone does not send a delegate on this occasion.

## RECOMMENDATION

That the Zone:

1. Selects option 1, providing for one delegate to attend the Forum (provided a delegate is available to attend).
2. Determines, though an amendment to this Resolution, a Zone delegate to attend.
3. Authorises an adjustment to the Zone's 2025-26 budget to the extent necessary to enable the resulting expenditure to be drawn from cash reserves.

## RECOMMENDATION AS MOVED

Moved: Shire of Cunderdin

Seconded: Shire of Bruce Rock

That the Zone:

1. Selects option 1, providing for one delegate to attend the Forum (provided a delegate is available to attend).
2. Nominates President Cr Melanie Brown to attend the Forum to represent the Zone.
3. Authorises an adjustment to the Zone's 2025-26 budget to the extent necessary to enable the resulting expenditure to be drawn from cash reserves.

CARRIED

## 12. ZONE BUSINESS

### 12.1. 2026 MEETING DATES

Meeting dates for the Great Eastern Country Zone's Executive Committee and Zone meetings are presented for the Zone's review and acceptance.

This paper reflects discussions on the proposed rotating schedule for Zone meetings raised at the previous meeting.

#### Zone meetings

Zone meetings are scheduled to align with State Council meetings. The State Council meeting schedule for 2026 is provided in the table below.

Anticipated State Council Agenda distribution	Preferred dates for Zone meetings	State Council meeting Dates
Thursday 5 February	Friday 13 to Monday 23 February	Wednesday 4 March
Thursday 9 April	Friday 17 to Tuesday 28 April	Wednesday 6 May
Thursday 4 June	Friday 12 to Monday 22 June	Wednesday 1 July
Thursday 6 August	Friday 14 to Monday 24 August	Thursday – Friday 3 – 4 September
Thursday 5 November	Friday 13 to Monday 23 November	Wednesday 2 December

The Zone current meets on the **2nd Thursday** of the month as this date is most suitable for all Local Governments. Please see note pertaining to the April meeting of the Zone.

Date	Time	Host Council	WA Parliament Sitting?	Notes
<b>12 February</b>	9:30am	Trayning	No	
<b>23 April</b>	9:30am	Cunderdin	Yes, both Houses	Scheduled instead of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, to align with above State Council meeting dates.
<b>11 June*</b>	TBC*	Perth/ MSTeams	Yes, both Houses (desirable for Delegation)	Delegation
<b>13 August</b>	9:30am	Bruce Rock	Yes, both Houses	
<b>12 November</b>	9:30am	Dowerin	Yes, both Houses	

**\*All delegates are requested to place-hold the dates between Tuesday, 9 June to Thursday, 11 June (inclusive) for which meetings or engagements associated with the Delegation may be scheduled.**

### Executive Committee meetings

Executive Committee meetings are generally scheduled to be held one and a half weeks prior to the Zone meeting. This allows the Executive Committee to meeting and the Zone agenda to be prepared and distributed one week prior to the Zone meeting. All meetings are held electronically.

Executive Committee meetings are currently held on the **1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday** of the month at 8:00am. The Zone Agenda is distributed on the Friday following the meeting. Unfortunately, this often does not allow sufficient time to prepare matters coming out of the Executive Committee meeting.

Accordingly, it is proposed that Executive Committee meetings are held on the **Tuesday two weeks prior** to the Zone meeting, at 8:00am. This will allow additional time for the preparation/finalisation of items for the Zone Agenda, based on discussions at the meeting.

Date
<b>27 January</b>
<b>24 March</b>
<b>19 May</b>
<b>21 July</b>
<b>27 October</b>

## RESOLUTION

**Mover:** Shire of Nungarin  
**Seconder:** Shire of Koorda

**That the Great Eastern Country Zone endorse:**

1. the schedule of Zone meeting dates for 2026:

Date	Time	Host Council
12 February	9:30 am	Trayning
23 April	9:30 am	Cunderdin
11 June*	TBC	Perth/MSTeams
13 August	9:30 am	Bruce Rock
12 November	9:30 am	Dowerin

**\*Delegates are requested to placeholder 9 June - 11 June inclusive.**

2. the Executive Committee meetings be conducted on the Tuesday two weeks prior to the Zone meeting at 8:00am as an electronic meeting.

Executive Meeting Dates:
27 January
24 March
19 May
21 July
27 October

**CARRIED**

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## 12.2. AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – 1 JULY 2024 TO 30 JUNE 2025

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The audit of the Zone's 2024–25 financial statements has been completed, and the final audit documents are attached (Attachments 4(a) and (b)).

The following matters were reported to the Committee:

- During the audit, it was noted that Clause 20 of the Constitution implies that a separate bank account needs to be established for the Zone. However, all transactions are currently processed through the WALGA bank account and tracked via a separate cost centre. The Committee acknowledged that the current process has been formally approved and recorded in the Zone's meeting minutes. It was recommended that the Committee consider formally updating the Constitution.

**For noting. This matter was reported on the 2023/2024 audit and the recommendation was noted and a change to the Constitution will be undertaken at the next review.**

2. It was noted during the audit that the income tax self-assessment return for the financial year 2025 had not yet been lodged with the Australian Tax Office (ATO) as of the date of the audit. It was recommended that the income tax self-assessment return should be lodged with the ATO as soon as possible.

**For noting.**

3. There was an item identified in the Audit which required an adjustment to be made – this has been posted and reflected in the accounts.

**For noting.**

4. There was an error was not adjusted and is considered immaterial and does not impact the opinion of the financial statements.

**For noting.**

## **RESOLUTION**

**Mover: Shire of Trayning**

**Seconded: Shire of Tammin**

**That the Zone endorse the audited annual financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2025.**

**CARRIED**

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## **12.3. REPORT ON MEETING WITH MINISTER WINTON**

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Due to scheduling challenges with attending Zone Meetings in-person, the Hon Sabine Winton MLA (the Minister for Education; Early Childhood; Preventative Health; Wheatbelt) invited the Zone Chairs and Deputy Chairs from the Avon Midland, Central, and Great Eastern Country Zones to a lunch at Parliament House on 7 October 2025.

Prior to the meeting, the delegates met to discuss key discussion points, and settled on Housing, Health, Roads, and Energy as the four most pressing topics of relevance across the three Zones.

A follow up letter to the Minister on the themes and discussion points discussed at the Lunch, signed by the Chairs of the Zones, is currently being finalised.

**Noted.**

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## **12.4. WHEATBELT REGIONAL CREMATORIUM**

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The Avon-Midland Country Zone endorsed an item to approach the Great Eastern Country Zone for support on an item to undertake advocacy for a crematorium in the Wheatbelt region.

The Avon-Midland Country Zone endorsed the item below.

In July 2021, there was a motion prepared for The Nationals State Convention that proposed:

*That this State Convention of The Nationals WA calls on the State and Federal Government to plan, investigate and fund an eco-friendly crematorium and chapel to be built in Northam in the Central Wheatbelt region of Western Australia.*

The background and reason for the motion was articulated as follows:

*Currently there is no crematorium facility in the Central Wheatbelt region of Western Australia. In fact, there are no crematoriums between Kalgoorlie and the metropolitan area; a distance of some 600 kilometres.*

*It has been accepted in the past that if a person from the Wheatbelt or other wishes to be cremated then arrangements are made with the metropolitan crematorium locations of Karrakatta Cemetery, Pinnaroo Valley Memorial Park, Fremantle Cemetery and more recently Rockingham. Alternative crematoriums are located along the coastal regional cities of Albany, Bunbury, Geraldton and inland Kalgoorlie.*

*In the last year (being 2020), more than 212 cremations were serviced in the Central Wheatbelt with a potential 300 from funeral companies in the Midland area.*

*Cremations are costly where the deceased is transferred from the country to the metropolitan area for a non-attendance and no chapel service. Furthermore, a family member must travel to the metropolitan area to collect the ashes of the deceased, as a funeral business cannot legally collect the ashes on their behalf.*

*Issues faced by already grieving family, relatives and friends include - leave of absence, road safety, traffic anxiety, driving anxiety, fuel costs, accommodation, hire of venues, clothing, catering, flowers and other.*

*Northam is the largest regional town in the Central Wheatbelt with a busy network of five arterial roads, including the Great Eastern Highway, along with the rail network. The Shire of Northam also hosts an airport and helipad that would support repatriated bodies from the North-West and other areas of the State.*

*The well-established Northam Cemetery, along Katrine Road overlooking the Avon River, had land opportunities for regional development and expansion for an eco-friendly crematorium and open air chapel facility (like Kalgoorlie).*

*It is timely that the State and Federal Governments take some responsibility to strategically plan, investigate and fund an eco-friendly (solar power with battery backup and/or natural gas) crematorium and chapel to be built in Northam in the Central Wheatbelt region.*

#### **AVON-MIDLAND COUNTRY ZONE COMMENT**

To date, there has been no State or Federal Government investment in planning or establishing a regional crematorium in the Central Wheatbelt.

The Northam Cemetery Focus Group was recently formed, comprising interested community members. One of the issues raised by the Focus Group has been the

ongoing need for a regional crematorium in the Central Wheatbelt and the lack of action in this regard.

Whilst contemporary statistics for the number of cremations performed across the 8 public crematoria in Western Australia are not available, indications from the Australian Funeral Directors Association are that 72% of funerals conducted in Australia each year are cremations. In metropolitan Perth, this figure is as high as 80%.

The Shire of Northam is currently considering an action being incorporated into its 2025/26 Council Plan (Community Strategic Plan), to develop a Master Plan for the Northam Cemetery. It is anticipated that the Master Plan would include provision for a crematorium and chapel, noting that this facility would require investment from State and/or Federal Government to bring the project to fruition.

Given that a regional crematorium would service many of the Local Governments in the Avon-Midland Zone, the Shire of Northam is seeking to understand if Zone Members are supportive of advocacy being undertaken by the Zone to the State and Federal Governments for investigation, planning and establishment of a regional crematorium in Northam.

If this approach is supported by the Avon-Midland Zone, it is proposed that similar support would be sought from the Central and Gt Eastern Zones. The Shire of Northam would be able to assist the Zone Secretariat with the advocacy work if required.

### **Comment**

There is a notable lack of crematoria in many parts of regional Western Australia. It is understood that there are only crematoria in Perth (operated by the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board), Kalgoorlie (Kalgoorlie Cemeteries Board), and Geraldton (Geraldton Cemeteries Board).

This means that Western Australians in most of regional WA who do not wish to conduct a burial for the remains of a loved one must typically travel to Perth. There have also been unfortunate frustrations with policies limiting the collection of ashes from existing crematoria for regional residents.

Currently, not for profit entities (including Local Governments and Cemeteries Boards) may apply for a license to operate a crematoria. In practice, this means that the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board operates as a monopoly for much of the State. Cremations in Western Australia also tend to be more costly than those in States with multiple licensed providers.

In many parts of the world, crematoria provide a revenue stream which can cross-subsidise the operation and maintenance of adjacent cemeteries.

In recent years, there has been interest in a non-government proponent to establish a crematoria in metropolitan Perth. This interest resulted in a [review of the Cemeteries Act and the Cremation Act](#), which has been ongoing since about 2020.

This initiative therefore appears to hold much promise in providing a valuable option for Wheatbelt residents to assist them grieve the loss of a loved one much closer to home.

## RESOLUTION

**Mover:** Shire of Bruce Rock

**Seconded:** Shire of Kellerberrin

**That the Great Eastern Country Zone support the Avon-Midland Country Zone in undertaking advocacy with the State and Federal Governments for the investigation, planning and establishment of a Regional Crematorium and Chapel to be located, preferably, at the Northam Cemetery.**

**CARRIED**

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### 12.5. TELSTRA ATU UPDATE

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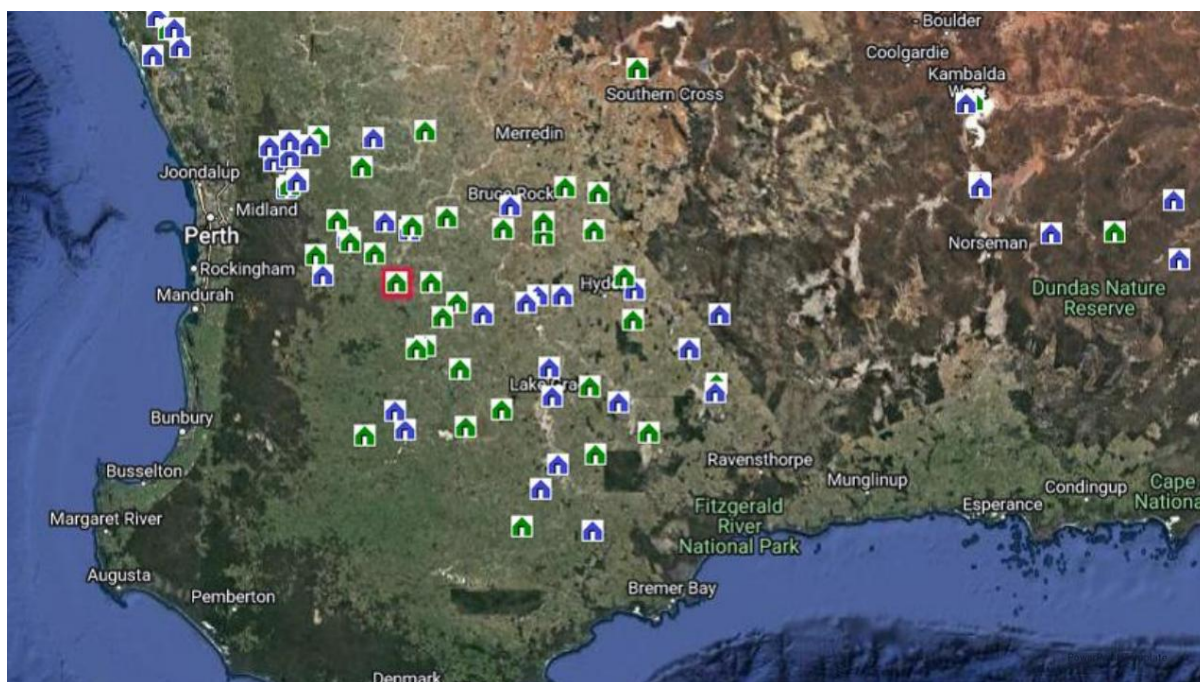
Following engagement with Telstra, the State Agencies responsible for the ATU project have decided to implement an interim trial model for the 2025-26 high threat season with DFES responsible for the coordination and connection of portable generators to ATUs during applicable outages.

DFES has progressed to hire generators, which are proposed to be stored by the Shires of Merredin, Narrogin, and Northam during the high-threat period. DFES will coordinate the credentialing and deployment of trained personnel to deploy and connect the generators. DFES will therefore be responsible for liaising with Telstra to manage operational aspects of the project, without the need for Telstra to enter into agreements with the majority of Local Governments across the Wheatbelt.

The vast majority of ATUs are now installed and commissioned. There are 80 sites across the Wheatbelt. WALGA understands that the criteria for the pilot program was to prioritise sites based on addressing upstream network dependencies (as the network is essentially a daisy chain configuration) to mitigate weak links. The dependencies are typically 3+ sites in a group.

A high-level map of sites was included in Telstra's presentation to the Zone in February (see extract below), and WALGA understand that a more detailed map may become available once the pilot arrangements for this summer are finalised.





Recent media coverage is available here: [Generator trial to address mobile phone tower outages during WA emergencies - ABC News](#)

**Noted.**

## **13. ZONE REPORTS.**

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### **13.1. CHAIR REPORT**

*The Chair provided a verbal report and congratulated all new Elected Members and Zone Delegates.*

**Noted.**

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### **13.2. WALGA ROADWISE**

*Tracey Peacock, Regional Road Safety Advisor was an apology to the meeting.*

## 14. WALGA STATE COUNCIL EXECUTIVE REPORTS

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### 14.1. WALGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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The WALGA President's Report was attached to the Agenda.

#### RESOLUTION

**Mover:** Shire of Wyalkatchem

**Seconded:** Shire of Tammin

**That the WALGA President's Report be received.**

**CARRIED**

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### 14.2. STATE COUNCILLOR REPORT

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*Cr Stephen Strange provided a verbal report.*

#### Secretariat Notes:

*Further to discussion about the Convention, statistics related to the WALGA AGM (which provide a general indication about Convention attendance) are:*

- 1. 82 of 95 Band 3 & 4 LGs registered Voting Delegates to the AGM.*
- 2. 9 Band 3 & 4 LGs were apologies/did not register for the AGM.*
- 3. 4 Band 3 & 4 LGs registered for the Convention but did not register Voting Delegates to the AGM.*
- 4. 149 of 230 registered Voting Delegates were from Band 3 & 4 LGs.*

*For the Convention overall, 80 of WA's 95 Band 3 and 4 Local Governments registered a total of 311 delegates to attend the Convention. The remaining 15 did not register any delegates. It is possible that not all delegates who were registered attended.*

*A copy of the Office the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner presentation referred to by Cr Strange can be found via this [link](#). A copy of the Overview of the WA Planning Commission (WAPC) Strategic Priorities 2025-2029 presented at the Information Forum referred to by Cr Strange can be found via this [link](#).*

#### RESOLUTION

**Mover:** Shire of Cunderdin

**Seconded:** Shire of Westonia

**That the State Councillor Report be received.**

**CARRIED**

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### 14.3. STATUS REPORT

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**Noted.**

Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	WALGA Contact
18 August 2025 Agenda Item <b>9.4.1</b> <b>Local Government Elections – Four Year Terms, Two Yearly Election Cycle</b>	That the Great Eastern Country Zone request that WALGA continues to advocate to the State Government to retain the current system of four-year terms with a two-year spill for Local Government elections	This matter will form part a of State Council Strategic Forum discussion in December.	<b>Kirsty Martin, Executive Manager, Member Services</b> 9213 2095 kmartin@walga.asn.au
5 March 2025 State Council Agenda Item <b>8.1</b> <b>Climate Change Advocacy Position</b>	The Zone supported the recommendation. However, the Zone also requests that WALGA remains open minded to further conversations on climate change.	<p>WALGA has suggested an approach to the Environment Policy Team which identified that, based on a range of developments at both the State and national level, there is a need to reconsider the draft Advocacy Position. These include the ALGA Adapting Together – Local Government Leadership in a Changing Climate <a href="#">Report</a>, the Australian Government has released the nation's first <a href="#">National Climate Risk Assessment</a>, <a href="#">Climate Adaptation Plan</a> and <a href="#">2035 emissions target</a> and recent comments from the WA Government regarding <a href="#">climate change targets</a>.</p> <p>These developments provide an opportunity to update and streamline the draft Advocacy Position. WALGA will take the feedback provided by Zones and State Councillors, and the additional information and direction released, to finalise a draft Advocacy Position and Background Paper for consideration by the sector in 2026. As previously recommended by the Environment Policy Team Local Governments will be encouraged to provide CEO / Council endorsed feedback on the Position and have at least a 10-week period to provide that feedback.</p>	<b>Nicole Matthews</b> <b>Executive Manager Policy</b> nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039

<p>13 February 2025 Zone Agenda Item <b>14.1 WA Telstra Automatic Transfer Unit Pilot Deployment Program</b></p>	<p>That the Great Eastern Country Zone requests WALGA organise a roundtable with WALGA, Telstra, Department of Fire and Emergency Services and Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to discuss the drafting of Community Support Agents Agreement for the implementation of the WA Telstra Automatic Transfer Unit Pilot Deployment Program.</p>	<p>Automatic Transfer Units (ATUs) have been installed by Telstra at 80 sites as per their agreement with the State Government. Negotiations are ongoing between DFES and Telstra regarding the locations of where back-up generators will be housed for the pilot phase. Once proposed locations are agreed, discussions with Local Governments in those towns regarding storage, maintenance and dispatch will commence.</p> <p>Deployment will be managed by DFES in conjunction with Telstra. This addresses the residual liability issues that would otherwise fall to volunteers or Local Governments.</p>	<p><b>Ian Duncan</b> <b>Executive Manager</b> <b>Infrastructure</b> <b>iduncan@walga.asn.au</b> <b>9213 2031</b></p>
<p>11 April 2024 Zone Agenda Item <b>9.1.2 Agricultural Land Use</b></p>	<p>That the Great Eastern Country Zone recommend that WALGA</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In considering Agricultural Land Use, establishes and promotes policy templates to guide Local Governments for their individual adoption to protect and prioritise the preservation of agricultural land against its displacement by non-agricultural activities that lead to a net reduction of the State's productive agricultural land.</li> <li>2. Within the Policy includes such uses but not limited to tree planting for offsets or carbon, renewable energy generation and transmission.</li> <li>3. Investigates potential impacts to local government rates on rural land, that has approved long term tree planting for different purposes, for example but not limited to planting for carbon offsets, planting for</li> </ol>	<p>State Council endorsed the Renewable Energy Facilities Advocacy Position at its September 2024 meeting. This position calls for the State Government to develop a renewable energy facility state planning policy that would provide greater guidance to applicants and decision makers.</p> <p>WALGA is continuing its energy transition advocacy and has written to the Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson BA MLA seeking further discussion on this issue.</p> <p>WALGA has appointed consultants to carry out work on the rating of Renewable Energy Projects.</p> <p>This work will contribute to a State Council Agenda item on rating of renewable energy projects considered at the November/December round of Zone and State Council meetings.</p>	<p><b>Nicole Matthews</b> <b>Executive Manager Policy</b> <b>nmatthews@walga.asn.au</b> <b>9213 2039</b></p>

	<p>clearing offsets, or planting for renewable fuels; and renewable energy investments.</p> <p>4. Provides advice to local government on what Policies or Special Area Rates should be considered for the land affected.</p>	<p>State Council resolved as follows:</p> <p>That WALGA advocate to the State Government for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Legislative amendments to enable WA Local Governments to rate large-scale renewable energy facilities using current rating mechanisms (differential rating based on UV, differential rating based on GRV, or GRV alone) with certainty; <u>and</u></li> <li>2. A commitment to implement a Payment in Lieu of Rates (PiLoR) framework in Western Australia.</li> </ol> <p>COMPLETE</p>	
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## 15. WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA

Zone Delegates are invited to read and consider the WALGA State Council Agenda, which has been provided as an attachment with this Agenda and can be found via the link [here](#).

The Zone can provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation on any of the items, including the items for noting. The Zone comment will then be presented to the State Council for consideration at their meeting.

The State Council Agenda items requiring a decision of State Council are extracted for Zone consideration below.

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### 15.1. 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.1)

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#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA's 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 23 September.
- The meeting resolved for WALGA to act in relation to four Member Motions:
  - Provision of Medical Services in Remote and Very Remote Local Governments
  - Homelessness – Short-term Accommodation Solutions
  - Rating Exemption Advocacy Motion
  - Rateability of Miscellaneous Licenses
- The action proposed to be taken in relation to each of the resolutions has been summarised for State Council's consideration.

#### ATTACHMENT

- [WALGA 2025 Annual General Meeting Minutes](#)

#### BACKGROUND

The 2025 WALGA AGM was held on 23 September 2025. 220 Voting Delegates were in attendance, with 124 Local Governments represented.

Five Member Motions were considered, with four being supported by Members at the AGM, as follows.

#### 7.1 Provision of Medical Services in Remote and Very Remote Local Governments

*That WALGA calls on the Western Australian Government and WA Grants Commission to:*

1. *increase the total funding and then the Medical Facilities Cost Adjuster component of the Financial Assistance to Local Governments; and*
2. *recalculate distributions to those Local Governments that are providing block cash payments to attract and retain general practitioners to allow affected Council to redirect ratepayer funds to Local Government responsibilities.*

#### 7.2 Homelessness – Short-term Accommodation Solutions

*That WALGA advocate to the State Government to provide culturally appropriate short-term accommodation options and wrap-around support services that provide sustainable homelessness solutions in all Local Governments across Western Australia.*

### **7.3 Rating Exemption Advocacy Position**

*That WALGA, in addition to its current advocacy positions 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 relating to rating exemptions, advocate to the WA Government for the introduction of a reimbursement model, whereby the WA Government repays Local Government the greater of:*

- 1. 75% of the value of rates lost in applying the charitable purposes exemption; or*
- 2. 1% of the total revenue of the Local Government.*

### **7.5 Rateability of Miscellaneous Licenses**

*That WALGA:*

- 1. Formally oppose any move by the Local Government Minister to introduce amendments to the Local Government Act to restrict the application of rates on Miscellaneous Licences.*
- 2. Develop an advocacy position on sector consultation prior to any amendment to the Local Government Act.*
- 3. Undertake a financial analysis of the cost to the Mining Industry of the rating of Miscellaneous Licences compared to the benefit to the Local Government sector.*

### **COMMENT**

Comment on each of the 2025 AGM resolutions is below.

In considering these resolutions, State Council and the relevant Policy Teams are guided by Clause 22(7) of the [WALGA Constitution](#), as follows:

*Where the State Council considers that a direction or decision from an Annual General Meeting has been made without information or a material nature or in circumstances which have materially altered and such direction or decision is not in the best interests of the Association, the State Council may decline to follow that direction or decision and, in that event, the Chief Executive Officer by notice shall advise the Ordinary Members of the decision of the State Council and the reasons for that decision.*

Members will be informed of progress on the above issues through Policy Team Reports in future State Council Agendas and through the AGM Status Report in next year's AGM Agenda.

### **7.1 Provision of Medical Services in Remote and Very Remote Local Governments**

A revised Rural and Remote Healthcare Services Advocacy Position was endorsed by State Council on 5 September 2025. The AGM resolution and WALGA's ongoing advocacy align on the need for financial reimbursement for Local Government support for essential primary health care services. WALGA's approach does not specify how reimbursement to Local Governments should be undertaken, or which Local Governments should be eligible. This approach aims to provide flexibility to achieve the same outcome, such as utilising the upcoming renewal of the National Health Reform Agreement.

It is recommended that this resolution be referred to the People and Place Policy Team.

### **7.2 Homelessness – Short-term Accommodation Solutions**

WALGA is currently reviewing the Homelessness Advocacy Position as part of a regular advocacy position review process. To inform the review, WALGA will survey Local Governments to gather information on the extent of Local Government engagement with homelessness and the extent of services, including accommodation options, available within their Local Government areas.

It is recommended that this resolution be referred to the People and Place Policy Team.

### **7.3 Rating Exemption Advocacy Position**

It is recommended that this resolution be referred to the Governance Policy Team.

### **7.4 Rateability of Miscellaneous Licenses**

An Advocacy Position on Rating of Miscellaneous Licences was endorsed by State Council on 5 September 2025. WALGA will continue to advocate for a broad review on all rating exemption categories and oppose legislative amendments that seek to exempt occupied miscellaneous licence land from rating.

It is recommended that this resolution is endorsed.

#### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

That:

1. the following resolutions from the 2025 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the People and Place Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:
  - 7.1 Provision of Medical Services in Remote and Very Remote Local Governments
  - 7.2 Homelessness – Short-term Accommodation Solutions
2. the following resolution from the 2025 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Governance Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:
  - 7.3 Rating Exemption Advocacy Position
3. the following resolution from the 2025 WALGA Annual General Meeting be endorsed:
  - 7.5 Rateability of Miscellaneous Licences

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Mover:** Shire of Trayning  
**Seconder:** Shire of Bruce rock

**That the Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.1 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.**

**CARRIED**



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## 15.2. 2026 SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES TRIBUNAL REMUNERATION INQUIRY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND ELECTED MEMBERS (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.2)

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*By Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) conduct an inquiry into Local Government Chief Executive Officer and Elected Member remuneration annually.
- In preparation for the Inquiry to be undertaken early next year, WALGA has prepared a draft submission to SAT that makes recommendations in relation to Elected Member fees and allowances, Chief Executive Officer remuneration, the Regional/Isolation Allowance and independent Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) member fees.
- The 2026 submission recommends:
  - an increase to Elected Member fees and allowances (including maximum reimbursable expenses) of 3%;
  - an increase to Chief Executive Officer remuneration bands of 3%;
  - an increase to the Regional/Isolation Allowance payable for Local Governments that are particularly isolated, long distances from population centres, and lacking in amenities;
  - the publication of clear guidance to the Local Government sector outlining how the Regional/Isolation Allowance is applied in terms of methodology, criteria and weightings; and
  - an increase to the current fee range for independent committee members, including ARIC members and chairs; and
  - a higher fee range for independent ARIC chairs, in recognition of the additional skill, knowledge and time commitment of the role.
- SAT will publish its determination for 2026-27 in April 2026.
- The Governance Policy Team considered the submission at its meeting on 29 October and recommended that it be included in the December Agenda for State Council endorsement.

### ATTACHMENT

- Draft WALGA submission to the 2026 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry – Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members

### POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The current Advocacy Positions relating to this submission are [Position 2.10 Elected Member Remuneration](#), [Position 2.2.3 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees](#), [Position 2.10A Chief Executive Officer Remuneration](#), and [Position 2.10A.1 Regional/Isolation Allowance](#).

#### 2.10 Elected Member Remuneration

*The Local Government sector supports appropriate remuneration of Local Government Elected Members on the basis of:*

1. *Vibrant democracy and good governance: fees and allowances payable to Elected Members should be sufficient to ensure that a diversity of candidates*

- from a range of backgrounds seek election to Local Government leadership positions;*
2. *Demands of the role: as the complexity of Local Government increases, and community expectations placed upon Elected Members grow in the social media age, the remuneration paid to Elected Members for their significant time commitment must compensate them for the personal and opportunity costs of taking on significant community leadership positions;*
  3. *Skills and training: with the implementation of the State Government's universal Elected Member training policy and the increasing expectation for Elected Members to undertake training, the time that Elected Members spend on professional development should be recognised by the fees and allowances framework; and*
  4. *Economic conditions: Elected Member fees and allowances must be considered within the surrounding economic environment. The value of fees and allowances paid to Elected Members should keep pace with the increasing costs of living and rates of inflation, to ensure that the relative value of Elected Member fees and allowances does not erode over time.*

### **2.2.3 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees**

*The Local Government sector:*

1. *supports Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees (ARIC) having a clearly defined role with an Elected Member majority;*
2. *supports the option for smaller Local Governments to share ARIC to reduce the burden on their resources;*
3. *does not support the requirement for the chair of the ARIC to be an independent member. The appointment of the chair should be at the discretion of the Local Government; and*
4. *supports the payment of meeting fees or defined reimbursements to independent ARIC members. The fees payable should be set by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal within a separate fee category and at a suitable level that recognises the skills and knowledge required for such a role.*

### **2.10A Chief Executive Officer Remuneration**

*The Local Government sector supports appropriate remuneration of Local Government Chief Executive Officers on the basis of:*

1. *Importance of the role: the role of the CEO within Local Government is undeniably one of importance. The efficient operations and accountability of Local Governments is dependent on the appointment of a suitably qualified CEO.*
2. *Attraction and retention: Local Governments must compete in the broader labour market to attract and retain CEOs with the requisite qualifications and experience.*
3. *Demands of the role: the skill, workload and time commitment required from the role of a Local Government CEO must be fairly compensated.*

#### **2.10A.1 Regional/Isolation Allowance**

*The Local Government sector:*

1. *values the Regional/Isolation Allowance payable to Chief Executive Officers as an important means for Local Governments, particularly those that are remote or isolated, to supplement remuneration and attract suitably qualified Chief Executive Officers; and*

2. *supports greater transparency regarding methodology of application for the Regional/Isolation Allowance.*

## **BACKGROUND**

The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) conduct an annual Inquiry into Local Government Elected Members' fees and allowances and Chief Executive Officers' remuneration. SAT invites submissions from Local Governments and other stakeholders.

SAT are yet to invite submissions for the 2026 Inquiry, however in anticipation of the upcoming end of year closure period and noting that the next ordinary meeting of State Council will be in March, the submission has been drafted early for consideration by Zones and State Council.

Local Governments are also encouraged to make their own submission to SAT, particularly in relation to their individual circumstances including requests to be classified in a different Band.

The content and recommendations in this submission were shaped by existing advocacy positions, previous submissions and feedback from individual Members since the 2025 Determination was published earlier this year.

The 2025 SAT Determination broadly aligned with WALGA's submission on behalf of Members, including:

- 3.5% increase to CEO remuneration band ranges (plus the 0.5% additional Superannuation Guarantee);
- 3.5% increase to the fee band ranges and some allowances for Elected Members (exclusive of superannuation where relevant);
- reduction of the four band ranges for independent committee members to one band, with the range to be from \$0 to \$450; and
- for the first time, provision for reimbursement of expenses for independent committee members.

The Tribunal also made two commitments in relation to:

- conducting a comprehensive survey of Local Governments in the latter half of 2025, the results of which will assist SAT in reviewing the quantum and effectiveness of the Regional/Isolation Allowance; and
- determining the rates for the independent chair of the audit, risk and improvement committee at a future date, to coincide with the commencement of the legislative changes.

## **COMMENT**

WALGA's submission for the 2026 Inquiry makes six recommendations:

1. That Elected Member Fees and Allowances (including maximum reimbursable expenses) are increased by 3%.
2. That the Chief Executive Officer remuneration bands are increased by 3%.
3. That the maximum payable Regional/Isolation Allowance be increased for Local Governments that are particularly isolated, long distances from population centres, and lacking in amenities.

4. That clear guidance be published to the Local Government sector outlining how the Regional/Isolation Allowance is applied in terms of methodology, criteria and weightings.
5. That the current fee range for independent committee members be increased to recognise the level of skill and knowledge required of independent audit, risk and improvement committee members, and to attract suitably skilled individuals to the role.
6. That a higher fee range be determined for independent chairs of audit, risk and improvement committees to recognise the additional skill, knowledge and preparation required to fulfil the role, and to attract suitably skilled individuals.

In relation to Recommendation 1: Elected Member Fees and Allowances, the submission:

- Reiterates WALGA's current advocacy position.
- Points to the current economic conditions putting pressure on households, including those of Elected Members and potential candidates, which lends itself to an increase in fees and allowances. Noting that CPI is currently at 2.1% and WPI 3.7%

In relation to Recommendation 2: Chief Executive Officer Remuneration, the submission:

- Summarises WALGA's current advocacy position in relation to the importance of the role of Chief Executive Officer, including the skill, workload and time commitment required from the role, and the difficulties of attracting and retaining suitable candidates in a competitive labour market.

In relation to Recommendations 3 and 4: Regional/Isolation Allowance, the submission:

- Underlines the importance of the Regional/Isolation Allowance for attracting and retaining quality Chief Executive Officers to some Local Governments that are particularly isolated or remote.
- Recommends both a review of, and publication of guidance about, the methodology, criteria and weightings for the Allowance to provide clarity for the sector.

In relation to Recommendations 5 and 6: Independent Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Member Fees, the submission:

- Recognises the 2025 Determination went some way to help attract, retain and adequately compensate suitable individuals to the roles of member and chair of ARICs.
- Notes that the current maximum rate of \$450 is not adequately competitive when trying to recruit members and chairs within the broader labour market and should be increased.
- Reinforces WALGA's existing position that a separate, higher fee range needs to be established for ARIC independent chairs.

On 29 October, the Governance Policy Team considered the submission and recommended that it be included in the December State Council Agenda for endorsement.

#### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the submission to the 2026 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members.

#### RESOLUTION

**Mover: Shire of Nungarin**

**Seconder: Shire of Narembeen**

**That the Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.2 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.**

**CARRIED**

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### 15.3. TOURISM ADVOCACY POSITION UPDATE (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.3)

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*By Saul Cresswell, Principal Policy Advisor Economic Development*

#### **BACKGROUND**

The visitor economy is an important driver of economic development for metropolitan and regional Local Governments in Western Australia. Comprising people travelling for leisure, business events, education, and those visiting friends and relatives, the visitor economy contributed \$18.3 billion to the Western Australian economy in 2023-24. Approximately 45 per cent of this spend took place in the regions.

In 2015, WALGA undertook research and consultation on tourism, developing a *Local Government and Tourism Discussion Paper* that included recommendations. As part of the recommendations, Advocacy Position 3.9 Tourism was endorsed by State Council in March 2017.

Local Governments are instrumental in maintaining the amenity of destinations, a critical factor in safeguarding tourism reputation and repeat visitation. There has been a growth in demands on Local Government resources to meet gaps in service delivery from other levels of Government or the private sector and to align with changes in community expectations (see [WALGA's submission on the Inquiry into Local Government Financial Sustainability](#)).

The WA Government's [Diversify WA](#) economic framework considers tourism and events a priority sector in the diversification of the state's economy. The *WA Visitor Economy Strategy* (WAVES) sets a vision for a \$25 billion visitor economy by 2033.

The State Government, through Tourism WA and the Regional Tourism Organisations, have developed regional tourism strategies, known as Tourism Destination Management Plans (TDMPs), to identify the challenges and opportunities across demand, supply and capability. TDMPs are the most informed articulation of a shared tourism vision undertaken to date, yet have no funding mechanism to implement them.

Tourism emerged as a key topic in WALGA's 2024 Economic Development Survey, with visitor attraction a focus area for Local Government economic development efforts. Responding to the findings, WALGA undertook a Tourism Survey in June 2025, which received 36 Local Government responses from a diversity of regions, with 92% of respondents stating that tourism had medium or high importance to their Local Government.

WALGA developed the *Role of Local Government in Tourism Discussion Paper*, which outlined the constraints and opportunities for Local Governments, and was distributed for Member and stakeholder feedback in September 2025. It also included a draft revised advocacy position. Feedback was received from 28 Local Governments, plus Tourism WA, Tourism Council WA and Regional Tourism Organisations. Local Government responses were received from each of the five tourism regions: Australia's South West, Australia's North West, Australia's Coral Coast, Australia's Golden Outback and Destination Perth.

The consultation provided unanimous support for the overarching intent of the draft advocacy position. Nearly half of respondents proposed amendments, which were considered and incorporated into the revised draft advocacy positions.

Key sector feedback during WALGA's consultation, included:

- Inadequate recognition of the pivotal role Local Government plays in providing community infrastructure and services that underpins amenity for visitors, and the need for sustainable funding mechanisms.
- Continued confusion about the roles of tourism agencies across WA and who to turn to for support.
- The prohibitive costs of accessing data relating to tourism in Local Government areas.
- Impacts of a difficult regulatory environment at all levels of government on tourism and events.
- The need for support addressing tourism literacy and the visitor economy.

The People and Place Policy Team endorsed the updated advocacy position at its meeting on 22 October 2025, with the inclusion of an additional point requesting resourcing for emergency management and medical services that face significantly increased demand during peak tourism periods.

## ATTACHMENT

- [The Role of Local Government in Tourism - 2025 Research Paper](#)

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

WALGA's **current** position:

*That WALGA:*

1. *Continues to advocate for a Local Government tourism strategy to deliver local tourism outcomes;*
2. *In the short-medium term, advocates that the State Government:*
  - a. *Produces targeted communication and education for Local Government using existing Tourism WA data to demonstrate the value of tourism to local communities, Elected Members and Local Government officers;*
  - b. *Provides guidance for Local Government on marketing small projects including events and attractions;*
  - c. *Directs Regional Development Commissions to facilitate the coordination of tourism stakeholders to provide strategic support where required for Local Government; and*
  - d. *Provides funding to Local Government for tourist infrastructure.*
3. *In the long term, advocates that the State Government:*
  - a. *Articulates the lead agency and defines the roles of other agencies in tourism, to facilitate coordination and collaboration of tourism activities across the State and to enhance Local Government's understanding of tourism in WA;*
  - b. *Defines and communicates how it provides destination marketing support to Local Governments and communicates how Local Governments can most effectively direct their resources;*
  - c. *Develops a sustainable State Government tourism funding mechanism for both regional and metropolitan Local Governments which is clearly communicated to Local Governments;*

- d. Implements and invests in Regional Investment Blueprints and delivers through appropriate funding models such as Royalties for Regions and federal funding opportunities which are clearly communicated to Local Government;*
- e. Continues funding to support sustainability of visitor centres;*
- f. Undertakes improvements to tourism-related infrastructure and technology including mobile signals and WIFI in regional areas; and*
- g. Undertakes measures to reduce the cost and improve the scheduling and routes of regional air services.*

It is proposed that the position **be replaced** with:

*WALGA calls on the State Government to:*

- 1. Fund the implementation of the WA Visitor Economy Strategy and the supporting Tourism Destination Management Plans and Regional Tourism Development Strategies, including for:*
  - a. maintenance and renewal of Local Government assets and services that underpin a positive visitor experience*
  - b. new and existing tourism infrastructure*
  - c. improving telecommunications infrastructure*
  - d. measures to reduce the cost and improve the scheduling and routes of regional air services*
  - e. accredited Visitor Centres.*
- 2. Ensure that tourism destinations with significant seasonal influxes of visitors have adequate medical and emergency services and reliable telecommunications.*
- 3. Articulate a clear tourism governance framework with defined roles and responsibilities to facilitate coordination and collaboration of tourism activities across the State.*
- 4. Adequately consult and consider Local Government when undertaking strategic tourism planning across Western Australia.*
- 5. Provide improved access to affordable, timely and granular data that delivers LGA-level insights on visitation, spend and event impacts.*

## **COMMENT**

Since the current advocacy position was adopted, tourism across the State has continued to evolve and change, including post pandemic visitation growth, changing tourism behaviour, and the increasing costs of doing business.

Many challenges identified in the current advocacy position persist and remain part of the new draft advocacy position. These include:

- a lack of clarity in tourism organisation roles and responsibilities
- ineffective coordination efforts
- lack of capacity building opportunities for Local Government
- and inaccessible and expensive data, often missing a localised focus.

The suggested revision to Advocacy Position 3.9 Tourism aims to provide a consolidated and contemporary position on the important role Local Government provides for tourism in WA and how best to capitalise on opportunities to benefit their communities.



The proposed updates to the advocacy position seek to:

- Align State Government investment and support with the contemporary Tourism Destination Management Plans (TDMPs).
- Reiterate the need for clear tourism governance across the State, without reference to which agency should lead the work.
- Reiterate and further clarify the need for accessible data to support informed decision making.
- Emphasise the pivotal role the Local Government sector plays in supporting the visitor experience, and advocate for adequate consultation and funding to ensure this role can be sustained.

WALGA will continue to work with State Government agencies and support the Local Government sector, including sharing the updated tourism research paper which provides context around tourism and the diverse roles Local Government can play.

#### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council replace Advocacy Position 3.9 Tourism with an updated position as follows:

*WALGA calls on the State Government to:*

- 1. Fund the implementation of the WA Visitor Economy Strategy and the supporting Tourism Destination Management Plans and Regional Tourism Development Strategies, including for:*
  - a. maintenance and renewal of Local Government assets and services that underpin a positive visitor experience*
  - b. new and existing tourism infrastructure*
  - c. improving telecommunications infrastructure*
  - d. measures to reduce the cost and improve the scheduling and routes of regional air services*
  - e. accredited Visitor Centres.*
- 2. Ensure that tourism destinations with a significant seasonal visitor influx have adequate medical and emergency services and reliable telecommunications.*
- 3. Articulate a clear tourism governance framework with defined roles and responsibilities to facilitate coordination and collaboration of tourism activities across the State.*
- 4. Adequately consult and consider Local Government when undertaking strategic tourism planning across Western Australia.*
- 5. Provide improved access to affordable, timely and granular data that delivers LGA-level insights on visitation, spend and event impacts.*

#### RESOLUTION

**Mover:** Shire of Merredin

**Seconded:** Shire of Tammin

**That the Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.3 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.**

**CARRIED**

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## 15.4. WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVOCACY POSITIONS (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.4)

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*By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager Environment and Waste*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA has been undertaking a process of reviewing and updating Advocacy Positions and Policy Statements.
- There are three Waste Management Advocacy Positions (7.2 State Waste Strategy, 7.3 Waste Authority and 7.11 Waste Management and Resource Recovery Partnership Agreement) which have been recently reviewed.
- It was determined that these positions are either no longer relevant or have been incorporated into other positions and it is therefore recommended they be retired.
- To ensure a clear Local Government position on all relevant waste management matters, WALGA is also undertaking a policy position gap analysis to inform the development of future Advocacy Positions.
- The Municipal Waste Advisory Council endorsed retiring the three Advocacy Positions at its meeting on 15 October 2025.

### POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The item retires the existing [Advocacy Positions](#):

#### **7.2 State Waste Strategy**

*Local Government requires leadership and clear direction from the State Government in relation to waste management. As such, Local Government supports the development and implementation of a comprehensive State Waste Strategy which:*

- 1. Is consistent with the content, purpose and objective of existing legislation and policy at both a state and national level;*
- 2. Clearly identifies the roles and responsibilities of the Waste Authority in regard to the development and implementation of the Strategy, as outlined in the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007;*
- 3. Is reviewed, with Stakeholder input, within 2 years of implementation; and*
- 4. Includes achievable targets for all waste streams and focuses on waste reduction, resource recovery and the diversion of waste from landfill. Targets should be based on accurate baseline data and clearly identify roles, responsibilities and funding for each target area.*

#### **7.3 Waste Authority**

*Local Government considers that an independent and effective Waste Authority is required. The role of the Waste Authority should be of a collaborative, facilitative and strategic nature. Specific activities should include:*

- 1. Developing, administering, monitoring and reviewing the State Waste Strategy;*
- 2. Developing a Priority Waste List (for Extended Producer Responsibility) as required in the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007; and*
- 3. Developing and implementing an annual Business Plan that delivers the objectives of the Waste Strategy.*

### ***7.11 Waste Management and Resource Recovery Partnership Agreement***

*The Local Government sector supports the initiation of a State Local Government Partnership Agreement on Waste Management and Resource Recovery.*

#### **BACKGROUND**

The process to review and update Advocacy Positions and Policy Statements relating to waste management is nearing completion. Three Advocacy Positions remain which have recently been reviewed:

- *7.2 State Waste Strategy* - The substance of this position is covered in the [Advocacy Position 7.1 Waste Management Legislation](#) which was endorsed by State Council in March 2025, and outlines requirements for State and Australian Government Waste Strategies.
- *7.3 Waste Authority* - This advocacy position is no longer required, as the Waste Authority's legislative requirements are defined under the WARR Act, and other aspects of waste management are addressed through Policy Position 7.1, endorsed by State Council in March 2025.
- *7.11 Waste Management and Resource Recovery Partnership Agreement* - Partnership agreements have not continued and advocacy efforts are being pursued through a variety of other approaches.

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council endorsed the retirement of the three Advocacy Positions at its meeting on 15 October 2025.

#### **COMMENT**

A review of all existing Advocacy Positions and Policy Statements has been progressed over the last two years. The three remaining advocacy positions are covered or included in other advocacy positions or have become dated and are no longer a relevant focus of advocacy. The Officers Advisory Group supported retiring the Advocacy Positions acknowledging that they are either incorporated into other existing positions or have become outdated. The Municipal Waste Advisory Council endorsed retiring the three Advocacy Positions and supported a gap analysis of advocacy positions.

#### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

That State Council retire Advocacy Positions:

1. 7.2 State Waste Strategy;
2. 7.3 Waste Authority; and
3. 7.11 Waste Management and Resource Recovery Partnership Agreement.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Mover:** Shire of Bruce Rock  
**Seconded:** Shire of Wyalkatchem

**That the Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.4 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.**

**CARRIED**

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## 15.5. ELECTORAL MATERIAL – AUTHORISATION STATEMENT ADDRESS REQUIREMENTS (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.5)

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*By Felicity Morris, Manager Governance and Procurement*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Authorisation requirements for electoral material are intended to protect the transparency and accountability of the electoral process.
- The mandatory publication of a street address, often the candidate's home, raises privacy and safety concerns, potentially deterring participation in Local Government elections.
- Other Australian jurisdictions offer more flexible approaches, such as allowing post office boxes or partial addresses, which maintain transparency without compromising safety.
- It is proposed that WALGA advocate that only the locality is included in the authorisation statement.
- The Governance Policy Team revised and endorsed the new advocacy position at its meeting on 20 October.

### ATTACHMENT

- [Jurisdictional comparison - Electoral material authorisation requirements](#)

### POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The purpose of this report is to provide a new advocacy position for endorsement. WALGA has several existing advocacy positions regarding election matters, but none dealing with electoral material.

### BACKGROUND

Section 4.87 of the *Local Government Act 1995* requires all printed, published or distributed electoral material to include the name and address of the person who authorised the electoral material. The address cannot be a post office box. Printed electoral material must also include the name and business address of the printer.

In recent electoral cycles, concerns have been raised regarding the requirement to publish a physical address, often the residential address of the candidate. Members increasingly raised these concerns in the lead up to the 2025 Ordinary Local Government Elections, including at the Mayors and Presidents Forum at the 2025 WALGA Convention.

### COMMENT

Authorisation requirements for election advertising are designed to enhance transparency and accountability in the electoral process. By clearly identifying the individual or organisation responsible for electoral communications, these rules ensure that voters can assess the source, credibility, and intent behind campaign materials. This transparency helps voters make informed decisions, discourages misinformation, and prevents "irresponsibility through anonymity". Authorisation also enables regulatory bodies to trace and address any breaches of electoral laws, reinforcing the integrity of democratic participation.

However, the obligation to publish a candidate's physical address raises significant privacy and safety concerns. Candidates for Local Government elections in Western Australia do not typically have official campaign headquarters. They may not have a business or other suitable address to use and are often required to list their personal residence. The internet and social media have increased the accessibility and permanence of personal information, making it easier for individuals to be targeted. Publicly disclosing a residential address can expose candidates and their families to risks such as harassment, intimidation, or unwanted contact, particularly in contentious or high-profile elections. These concerns are especially acute for candidates from vulnerable groups or those campaigning on polarising issues. This may deter individuals from standing for election, thereby limiting diversity and participation in local democracy.

A review of the requirements in other Australian jurisdictions has been carried out and is provided as an attachment. While many jurisdictions have similar requirements to WA, others have more flexible approaches:

- PO boxes satisfy the address requirement in Local Government elections in South Australia and Victoria.
- The locality (town/city) is sufficient for material that is published by an individual in Local Government elections in the Northern Territory, while a full address is required for material published by an organisation.
- The street name and locality are sufficient for material published by an individual in Territory elections in the Northern Territory, while a full address is required for material published by an organisation.
- Only the name of the person authorising the material is required for ACT Territory elections.

This demonstrates that there are a range of options for identifying the person responsible for the material, without needing to provide their address. The Returning Officer and regulatory bodies have access to candidates' contact and nomination details, ensuring that any breaches can be investigated and enforced without compromising personal privacy. The draft advocacy position recommends that the requirement is limited to the name and locality of the person authorising the material.

It should be acknowledged that elected Council Members may be required to disclose their addresses in Primary and Annual Returns, which are available for public inspection. Similarly, a disclosure of a proximity interest in Council Meeting documents may allow a Council Member's address to be identified. However, these materials are not circulated as widely as electoral materials or subject to the heightened electoral context.

As a final matter, if candidates print materials at home, the WAEC advises that no separate statement of the printer's address is required, as this is satisfied by the authorisation statement. Many Australian jurisdictions do not require the printer's name or address on printed electoral materials. Increasingly, printing may be done through companies operating online only, without physical addresses. The review of authorisation requirements provides an opportunity to remove the requirement to include the printer's details.

#### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA advocate to the State Government to amend section 4.87 of the *Local Government Act 1995* to:

1. Replace the requirement to include the name and address of the person authorising the electoral material, with a requirement to include the name and locality of the person authorising the material.
2. Remove the requirement for the name and business address of the electoral material printer to appear at the end of the electoral material

#### RESOLUTION

**Mover:** Shire of Bruce Rock

**Seconder:** Shire of Cunderdin

**That the Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.5 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.**

**CARRIED**

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#### 15.6. OTHER STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

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Zone Delegates are invited to raise for discussion, questions or decision any of the items in the State Council Agenda, including the items for noting, Policy Team and Committee Reports or the Key Activity Reports.

## 16. EMERGING ISSUES

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### 16.1. GREAT EASTERN HIGHWAY ADVOCACY

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Following the Main Roads report, Zone Delegates resolved to undertake additional advocacy regarding Great Eastern Highway, particularly between the Shires of Northam and Yilgarn.

#### RESOLUTION

**Mover:** Shire of Cunderdin

**Seconder:** Shire of Yilgarn

**That the Zone resolves to draft correspondence to the Minister for Transport concerning the condition of the Great Eastern High between Northam and Yilgarn for signing at the Zone's February meeting.**

**CARRIED**

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### 16.2. REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY SPORTING AND RECREATION FACILITIES FUND (CSRFF)

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*Shire of Narembeen*

The Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport (CITS) has advised that the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) and Club Night Lights Program (CNLP) are currently under review. However, no information has been released on when the review will be completed, what the future structure or timing of the program will be, or whether funding levels will be maintained or adjusted.

This ongoing uncertainty is impacting regional communities that rely heavily on CSRFF support to deliver sport and recreation infrastructure projects. While the State Government's "PlayOn WA 2030" initiative references strengthening funding programs, no detail or assurance has been provided about the continuation or timing of CSRFF rounds.

The CSRFF is a critical funding stream for local governments and community organisations across regional WA, enabling the development, upgrade and renewal of sporting and recreation facilities. Projects are being delayed or placed at risk due to the lack of clarity about future funding rounds and program direction.

Additionally, the program is consistently oversubscribed, funding levels have not kept pace with increasing construction costs and inflation, and regional areas such as the Wheatbelt have limited alternative sources of capital funding. The lack of transparency and timeliness in the review process unfairly disadvantages regional communities, particularly when government priorities appear to be directed toward metropolitan or election-commitment projects.

## RESOLUTION

**Mover:** Shire of Narembeen

**Seconder:** Shire of Koorda

**That the GECZ:**

**1. Express its concern at the ongoing review of the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) without a timeline for completion or confirmation of the program's future structure or funding levels.**

**2. Request WALGA to advocate to the Minister for Sport and Recreation and the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport (CITS) for:**

**a. Public release of the CSRFF review's scope, commencement date and expected completion timeline;**

**b. Confirmation of the program's continuation and funding levels beyond the review period, with increases to reflect inflation, demand, and regional construction costs;**

**c. Commitment that CSRFF will remain a merit-based, transparent, and equitable program accessible to regional and metropolitan communities alike; and**

**d. Urgent communication of future funding round dates to enable regional local governments and community clubs to plan projects effectively.**

**3. Request WALGA to highlight to the Minister that the lack of certainty around CSRFF is jeopardising the fruition of regional projects vital to community wellbeing, participation, and sustainability.**

**CARRIED**

## 17. NEXT MEETING

The next Great Eastern Country Zone meetings will be held on Thursday, 12 February at 9:30am at the Shire of Trayning as per [item 12.1](#).

## 18. CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 12:13.