

Great Eastern Country Zone Minutes

Monday, 18 August 2025

**Hosted by the Shire of Kellerberrin
(Kellerberrin Recreation & Leisure Centre)
Commencing at 10:00am**

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 are provided as attachments to the Minutes:

1. Item 5 – Shire of Tammin presentation
2. Item 6.1 – WALGA update - Public health policy
3. Item 6.2 – Living Well in the Wheatbelt presentation
4. Item 11.3 – WALGA RoadWise report

1. OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1. OPENING

The Chair opened the meeting at 10.01am.

1.2. ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS	2 Voting Delegates from each Member Council
Shire of Bruce Rock	President Cr Ram Rajagopalan
	Mr Mark Furr, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Cunderdin	President Cr Alison Harris JP
	Deputy President Cr Tony Smith
	Mr Stuart Hobley, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Dowerin	President Cr Robert Trepp
Shire of Kellerberrin	Deputy President Cr Emily Ryan
Shire of Koorda	Mr Zac Donovan, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Merredin	Mr Craig Watts, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Mount Marshall	President Cr Tony Sachse (Zone Chair)
	Mr Ben McKay, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Mukinbudin	President Cr Gary Shadbolt
	Ms Tanika McLennan, A/Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Narembeen	President Cr Scott Stirrat
	Mr Ben Forbes, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Nungarin	President Cr Pippa de Lacy
	Mr David Nayda, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Tammin	President Cr Charmaine Thomson, non-voting
	Mr Andrew Malone, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Shire of Westonia	President Cr Mark Crees
	Ms Jasmine Geier, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, non voting
Shire of Wyalkatchem	President Cr Owen Garner
	Cr Rod Lawson-Kerr (Deputy Delegate)
	Mr Ian McCabe, Temporary Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Yilgarn	President Cr Wayne Della Bosca
	Mr Nic Warren, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

GUESTS	
Main Roads WA	Mr Mohammad Siddiqui, Regional Manager Wheatbelt
Water Corporation	Ms Rebecca Bowler, Manager Customer & Stakeholder – Goldfields & Agricultural Region
Wheatbelt Development Commission	Mr Rob Cossart, Chief Executive Officer
WA Country Health Service - Wheatbelt	Ms Nancy Bineham, Director Strategy, Change & Service Development
Procon Developments	Mr Leon Key, Director of AvonWest Ms Mia Davies

WALGA	
Mr Sam McLeod, Manager Commercial Services (Executive Officer)	
Ms Hannah Godsave, Policy Manager Community (electronic)	
Ms Meghan Dwyer, Governance Specialist	

1.3. APOLOGIES

MEMBERS

Shire of Bruce Rock	Cr Stephen Strange (State Council Representative)
Shire of Dowerin	Mrs Manisha Barthakur, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Kellerberrin	Mr Raymond Griffiths, Chief Executive Officer (voting delegate)
Shire of Kondinin	President Cr Kent Mouritz
	Deputy President Cr Bev Gangell
	Mr Bruce Wright, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Koorda	President Cr Jannah Stratford
Shire of Merredin	Deputy President Cr Renee Manning
	Cr Mark McKenzie
Shire of Narembeen	Ms Rebecca McCall, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Shire of Tammin	Deputy President Cr Tanya Nicholls
	Cr Nick Caffell
Shire of Trayning	President Cr Melanie Brown
	Mr Peter Naylor, Chief Executive Officer, non voting
Shire of Westonia	Mr Bill Price, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Wyalkatchem	Deputy President Cr Christy Petchell

GUESTS	
Regional Development Australia WA	Mr Josh Pomykala, Director Regional Development
Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee	Ms Shelby Robinson
CBH Group	Ms Kellie Todman, Manager Governance and Industry Relations

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT
Hon Melissa Price MP, Member for Durack
Mr Lachlan Hunter MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt

WALGA
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. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Elected Members must declare to the Chair 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

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nil

5. 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 Tammin made a presentation at the meeting. The presentation is attached (Attachment 1).

The Shire of Nungarin is invited to make a presentation to next Zone meeting, in November.

Note: Virtual Hosts for 2026 will be determined based on whether the Zone adopts the proposed new meeting cycle included as an item in this agenda.

6. 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.*

6.1. MS HANNAH GODSAVE, POLICY MANAGER COMMUNITY AT WALGA

As a brief introduction to the next presentation on public health matters, Ms Godsave provided an overview WALGA's work on public health policy, including in relation to Local Public Health Plans.

The presentation is attached (Attachment 2).

Further information is available:

- [WALGA Public Health page: Link to Department of Health, recordings and registration for WALGA webinars](#)
- [WAGLA Rural and Remote Healthcare page \(including link to Local Government Primary Healthcare Services Survey Report\)](#)
- [Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance](#)

Noted.

6.2. LIVING WELL IN THE WHEATBELT - MS NANCY BINEHAM, DIRECTOR STRATEGY, CHANGE & SERVICE DEVELOPMENT AT THE WA COUNTRY HEALTH SERVICE WHEATBELT

Ms Nancy Bineham, Director Strategy, Change & Service Development at the WA Country Health Service Wheatbelt provided an address on the Living Well in the Wheatbelt Strategy and the interface with Local Public Health Plans.

The presentation is attached (Attachment 3).

Noted.

6.3. NORTHAM LOGISTICS HUB - MR LEON KEY, DIRECTOR OF AVONWEST AT PROCON DEVELOPMENTS

Mr Leon Key, Director of AvonWest at Procon Developments, provided a briefing on the Northam Freight Hub project. This address has been organised following the resolution of the Zone to invite a presentation on the development.

Noted.

7. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Nil.

8. 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).

8.1. DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY REGULATION AND SAFETY

The Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety report was distributed to Zone Delegates on Friday, 15 August.

The Shire of Merredin raised a concern about whether their quarterly FA Grant payments for the remainder of 2025-26 may be less than the Shire had expected/budgeted to receive. The Executive Officer will make an enquiry with the LGIRS.

Noted.

8.2. WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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

Topics:

- ATU update
- Housing projects and industrial activations
- Renewable energy, including the launch of the Merredin Big Battery and update on the release of the Transmission Plan.
- Freight logistics opportunities
- Living Well in the Wheatbelt (seeking ongoing funding for a project officer for implementation)
- Review and future planning for "Bring Dowerin Downtown" event.
- Business New Wheatbelt special feature.

Noted.

8.3. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA WHEATBELT

Josh Pomykala, Director Regional Development was an apology for the meeting.

The RDAW report was distributed with the Agenda.

Noted.

8.4. MAIN ROADS WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Mohammad Siddiqui, Regional Manager Wheatbelt provided a verbal update.

Mohammad provided an update on projects completed in the 2024/2025 financial year and some of the program for 2025/26 (subject release).

Delegates raised the following key concerns:

- Walgoolan bridge (join between seal and concrete)
- Intersection of Yilgarn Avenue and Great Eastern Highway

Noted.

8.5. WATER CORPORATION

Rebecca Bowler, Manager Customer and Stakeholder provided a verbal update.

Delegates were advised that there has been no change to the after-hours on-call service level, and coverage will continue to be provided. The only adjustment is a reduction in the number of workers rostered on call at the same time.

Noted.

8.6. WHEATBELT DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Shelby Robinson, Wheatbelt DEMC has been invited to all Zone meetings and will attend where she is available. Shelby was an apology for this meeting but provided the information below.

- The EM Webinar series continues. This month, the focus is the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. This is an important Commonwealth, State Administered funding schemes for LGAs – and EM agencies – to understand prior to a disaster. This is one of the only government funding schemes to recuperate costs post disaster for LGAs. Attendance is encouraged from all EM partners, as well as LGA executive, including infrastructure, assets or engineering managers. Please join online on Thursday, 14 August from 12.30-1.15pm. Last month's EM webinar featured a presentation from WAPF Goldfields-Esperance on LANDSAR, which is accessible to watch via the google drive link.
- Anyone who is not already receiving EM webinar invites and recordings, please subscribe via link [here](#), or contact DEMA.
- AWARE funding round opened 1 July and closed on 5 August 2025. These grants are available for projects or activities which invest in capacity building or preparedness activities at a local level. A 25% co-contribution from the LGA is required.
- The Wheatbelt DEMC is hosting an annual preseason forum on the 1st and 2nd of September. All CEOs from across the district have been invited to participate. The Forum will be held in Bruce Rock over 1.5 days. Two keynote speakers (Mr Brett Chalmoner – SEMC Chair and Ms Annette Turner-Duggan – Disaster Relief Australia) will present on day one, alongside presentations on Building Resilience Together: Emergency Management Fundamentals for the Wheatbelt and presentations from the State Recovery Team. Day two will feature presentations spanning a range of hazards and risk owners, including; DFES (Fire), WAPF (Policing in Emergencies), Energy Policy WA and Western Power (Power: Planning and Redundancy) and Dept Communities (Emergency Relief and Support). The afternoon of day 2 will feature 3 workshops. The first workshop: Strategic Local Emergency Management – Insights from the Frontline. The second workshop: Designing a District Engagement Model: Coordination of hazard information. The final workshop: Setting Strategic Priorities for the Wheatbelt DEMC 2025/26 & Beyond.
- If your local government haven't nominated anyone to attend, please do asap.
- LEMC annual reports were due to be submitted to the SEMC, via the DEMA, by COB 31 July 2025. Thankyou to everyone who submitted.
- A reminder that the DEMA can deliver a range of emergency management training, free of cost, to LEMCs, agencies and LGAs. Please reach out to discuss your needs.

Noted.

8.7. CBH

Kellie Todman, Manager Government and Industry Relations was an apology for this meeting.

9. MINUTES

9.1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY ZONE MEETING HELD ON 13 JUNE 2025

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on 13 June were previously circulated to Members.

RESOLUTION

Mover: Shire of Westonia
Seconded: Shire of Cunderdin

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Great Eastern Country Zone held on 13 June 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

9.2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY ZONE MEETING HELD ON 13 JUNE 2025

9.2.1. ZONE COUNCIL MEMBER TRAINING INITIATIVE

The June Zone meeting resolved to progress a Zone initiative to provide face-to-face council member training within the Zone.

Face-to-face training is therefore being planned for early in 2026, to provide an opportunity for newly elected or re-elected Council members to undertake the training before the busier months of the growing season

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

Potentially clashing dates have been identified and avoided as follows:

- The CBH AGM is being held on Friday 27 February 2026.
- The 2026 [Grains Research update](#) is being held on Monday 16 to Tuesday 17 February 2026.

The Shire of Westonia has kindly offered to host the training, for one or all the blocks. If desired, it would be possible for another Local Government to host one of the blocks. Should another Zone member wish to host, it is requested that they raise their interest before or at this Zone meeting.

An online survey to collect expressions of interest will be sent to all Council members following the October Election, and promoted at the November Zone meeting. Places in the training will then allocated based on expressions of interest. If there are more expressions than there are places, places will be allocated with the aim of reaching the most equitable outcome across Zone Local Governments.

The Shires of Bruce Rock, Westonia, Wyalkatchem and Yilgarn advised they usually held their Council meeting on the 3rd Thursday of the month, therefore Thursday, 19 February may not be ideal. The Shire agreed to look at the scheduling of their Council meetings to accommodate Councillors wishing to attend the training.

Noted.

9.2.2. 2026 DELEGATION

The June Zone meeting approved a proposal to organise a Zone delegation to Perth in 2026. This delegation is essentially a pilot initiative, which could inform future engagement and advocacy initiatives.

Aims and Purpose

The Zone exists to represent the interests of 16 Local Governments in the Eastern Wheatbelt Region. The delegation provides an opportunity to advocate on the Zone's priorities, particularly to State Government and other Perth-based organisations, through developing and maintaining effective relationships with key decision-makers. The delegation is expected to lay the groundwork for ongoing advocacy and engagement.

In addition to issues that apply across the Zone, there might be opportunities to raise specific smaller things (such as a requested policy change, an operational action, or a minor project funding request) that might only relate to one or two Local Governments in the Zone - especially if those issues would be relatively easy to address.

While the Zone has existing priority areas, input is sought from all Zone members/delegates to:

- Inform which meetings to seek and prioritise
- Identify potential points to raise
- Identify opportunities for further engagement (events, photo opportunities, etc.)

Proposed Survey

A survey for all Zone representatives has been drafted and is available for input here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/gecz-delegation>

All Zone representatives are invited to complete the survey, with responses requested by Friday, 19 September 2025. While input from nominated Zone delegates is preferred, Councillors and Chief Executive Officers from Zone Local Governments are also welcome to provide input.

The results will be reported back to the Zone and used by the delegation to prioritise and plan for potential engagements.

Proposed Delegation Representatives

It is proposed that members of the Zone's Executive Committee, as elected at the November Zone meeting will comprise the delegation, potentially supported by selected CEOs of some Zone Local Governments.

While the Executive Officer will coordinate meeting requests, it is proposed that delegates may each be assigned a meeting or engagement for which they are responsible for:

- Collating and planning agenda items (to include in the meeting request and to raise at the meeting), drawing on the survey results and input from other delegates
- Collecting input from delegates and undertaking any collating any information or details for discussion at the meeting;
- Briefing all delegates prior to the meeting; and
- Acting as the lead spokesperson at the meeting.

Meetings will be practically limited by the size and availability of meeting rooms in Parliament. Accordingly, it may not be possible for every delegate to attend every meeting. While we will work towards securing opportunities for the delegation to engage with key decision-makers, we cannot guarantee meetings, and we will need to be adaptive in scheduling the best possible meetings given the inevitable challenges with scheduling and conflicting engagements. In some cases, we may need to accept meetings with representatives and advisors if schedule conflicts cannot be resolved.

Overlap with Other Advocacy

Across the Zone's 16 Local Governments, there is varying participation in Regional Organisations of Councils and other member-owned initiatives, as shown below:

Zone Member	WEROC	NEWROC	RoeROC	CEACA	Wheatbelt Way
Bruce Rock	Member			Member	
Cunderdin	Member				
Dowerin		Member		Associate	Member
Kellerberrin	Member			Member	
Kondinin			Member		
Koorda		Member			Member
Merredin	Member			Member	
Mount Marshall		Member		Member	Member
Mukinbudin		Member		Member	Member
Narembeen			Member	Member	
Nungarin		Member			Member
Tammin	Member				
Trayning		Member			Member
Westonia	Member			Member	Member
Wyalkatchem		Member		Member	Member
Yilgarn	Member			Member	
Other Members/ Associate Members			Kulin and Corrigin (CCZ)	Quairading (CCZ)	

Accordingly, it is proposed that the delegation may refer to work by the ROCs, but will principal be formed by the Zone's Executive Committee itself, potentially with support from Zone CEOs as invited by the Executive Committee.

Workshop

It is proposed to hold a half-day workshop in Kellerberrin on the morning of Tuesday, 25 November for delegation members to develop and agree an approach for implementation, including a specific priority list of requested engagements. WALGA would then commence sending meeting request letters in January 2026.

RESOLUTION

Mover: Shire of Nungarin
Seconded: Shire of Bruce Rock

That the Zone:

- 1. Endorses the Zone's Executive Committee, as elected in November 2025, forming the delegation.**
- 2. Endorses that Executive Committee to invite up to three member Local Government CEOs to attend (following the planning Workshop).**
- 3. Notes the survey for the input of all Zone members intended to inform the planning of the delegation and encourages input from Zone members.**
- 4. Notes the proposed workshop planned for 25 November 2025.**

CARRIED

9.2.3. ZONE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

At the June meeting, President Cr Crees raised the Zone's Strategic Priorities and proposed that Agricultural Land Use be considered a key focus area for the Zone.

The Chair clarified that the current list of priorities is not ranked in any particular order and is reviewed biennially with each new Zone cohort. Ranking priorities is an important part of forward planning for the Zone, and it would be timely to review them following the election of a new Zone cohort following the next Ordinary election.

As an input to this, the survey for the delegation includes questions to collect delegate input on the ranking of priorities, which could be used to inform this discussion.

Zone delegates are therefore requested to complete the survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/gecz-delegation>.

It is proposed that this matter is then considered further in November 2025 or February 2026.

Noted.

9.2.4. PROPOSED ZONE MEETING CYCLE

Note: This item is presented to the Zone to allow for discussion and input, to inform a final proposal to be put to the November Zone meeting for a decision.

Following the resolution at the June Zone meeting, a draft cycle of Zone meetings is proposed. This proposed cycle of meetings:

- Provides for at least half of all meetings being held at a central Town in the Zone (Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Merredin, and Trayning.) These four townsites have been selected based on being central to Zone members, and reasonably easy to access from Perth to maximise potential for guest speakers to attend in-person.
- Provides for a meeting in Perth every two years, alternating with the Zone Conference.
- Provides for the Zone to visit each Local Government no less than every four years.

Host Local Governments have been provisionally indicated in the following tables, with opportunity to align hosts with meetings held in that Zone.

Cycle	Year	Meeting	Current Order	Guest Host
Existing	2025	February	Kellerberrin	Yilgarn
	2025	(Zone Forum) - March	Bruce Rock	-
	2025	April	Merredin	Wyalkatchem
	2025	June	Kellerberrin	Westonia
	2025	August	Kellerberrin	Tammin
	2025	November	Kellerberrin	TBC/Nungarin

Cycle	Year	Meeting	Proposed Order	Host/Guest Host
Proposed	2026	February	Trayning	Trayning
	2026	(Inc. Delegation) April	Perth	-
	2026	June	Cunderdin	Cunderdin
	2026	August	Bruce Rock	Bruce Rock
	2026	November	Dowerin	Dowerin
	2027	February	Kellerberrin	Narembreen
	2027	(Zone Forum) - March	TBC	-
	2027	April	Kondinin	Kondinin
	2027	June	Merredin	Merredin
	2027	August	Koorda	Koorda
	2027	November	Trayning	Mukinbudin

Due to the number of Zone members, this cycle would run until about 2030 until repeating. The remainder of the cycle could resemble the following:

Cycle	Year	Meeting	Current Order	Host
Proposed	2028	February	Mount Marshall	Mount Marshall
	2028	April	Perth	-
	2028	June	Bruce Rock	-
	2028	August	Mukinbudin	-
	2028	November	Kellerberrin	Kellerberrin
	2029	February	Narembreen	Narembreen
	2029	(Zone Forum) - March	TBC	-
	2029	April	Nungarin	Nungarin
	2029	June	Merredin	Merredin
	2029	August	Tammin	Tammin
	2029	November	Trayning	Trayning
	2030	February	Westonia	Westonia
	2030	April	Perth	-
	2030	June	Wyalkatchem	Wyalkatchem
	2030	August	Bruce Rock	Bruce Rock
	2030	November	Yilgarn	Yilgarn

2026 Zone Meeting Dates

Through 2025, clashes with Parliamentary sitting days have made it challenging to secure a Ministerial address. If possible, the dates for 2026 will be proposed based on avoiding this clash where possible. However, a meeting in Perth in April may assist in enabling a guest address from a Minister.

RESOLUTION

Mover: Shire of Cunderdin
Seconder: Shire of Kellerberrin

That the Zone:

- 1. Notes the proposed new meeting cycle; and**
- 2. Considered adoption of the cycle and the adoption of specific meeting dates for 2026 at the November 2025 Zone meeting.**

CARRIED

9.3. MINUTES OF THE GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY ZONE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 AUGUST 2025

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on 6 August 2025 were provided as an attachment to the Agenda.

RESOLUTION

Mover: Shire of Westonia

Seconded: Shire of Nungarin

That the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on 6 August 2025 be received.

CARRIED

9.4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 AUGUST 2025

9.4.1. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS – FOUR YEAR TERMS, TWO YEARLY ELECTION CYCLE

This report has been drafted at the request of the Executive Committee.

BACKGROUND

In late 2024 (September – October) WALGA conducted sector-wide consultation on WALGA's Elections Advocacy Positions to see if they accurately reflect the sector's contemporary view. Local Governments were requested to provide a Council endorsed response.

The responses were collated and analysed, with the results informing a report to the State Council meeting in December 2024. 92 Local Governments provided a response which comprised:

- 16 x Class 1
- 16 x Class 2
- 25 x Class 3
- 35 x Class 4

One of the areas which was canvassed was terms on Council and election cycles. The question put to Local Governments was:

- (a) The sector continues to support four-year terms with a two year spill;*
OR
(b) The sector supports four-year terms on an all in/all out basis.

98% of respondent Local Governments support four-year terms with a spill of half the Council every 2 years.

[In June](#), Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Local Government, stated her support for a four-year election cycle, citing concerns about voter fatigue and the rising costs of conducting biennial elections.

Members of the Zone's Executive Committee have raised concerns with this suggestion and wish to seek the Zone's view on a proposed Zone position.

Comment

Due to the practicalities of holding Local Government elections, changes to one aspect of holding elections may be linked with other changes. For example, moving to a four-year election cycle has previously linked to the introduction of compulsory voting.

In Australian States with four-year terms and compulsory voting in Local Government elections, there is typically political party endorsement or affiliation with candidates, leading to partisan politics at the local level.

Western Australia's current system of biennial half-council elections has been largely favoured by the sector, particularly because it supports the election of independent, community-minded representatives who do not need a party affiliation, endorsement, or resources to be successful in election to Council.

Other reasons the current model is supported, particularly in regional parts of WA, are:

- Biennial voting typically provides for most electors to vote every two years, if they wish to. This provides for electors to vote every two years (rather than every four), which can support voter awareness, engagement, and participation. It can also provide for contentious issues to be settled through an upcoming election.
- Moving to four-year election cycles may reduce the likelihood of attracting sufficient candidates to form a council, particularly in smaller communities. More frequent elections, such as the current biennial model, help mitigate this risk by requiring fewer candidates at each cycle, making participation more manageable and increasing the chances of filling all council positions. Moving to a four-year cycle would likely result in more elections being unopposed or unfilled.
- Half-council elections provide for more experienced members of Council to mentor and support newly-elected Council members. Should they need to, the Council members who are not up for election can also fulfill their duties over the election period without being preoccupied with the election.
- It is generally appropriate for Shire Presidents whom are elected by their Councils to be elected for a two-year term (aligned with the biennial cycle), rather than for a four-year term.
- The current system of having an election every two years provides for Local Governments to be closely familiar with the process of elections. Holding elections every four years could create challenges in recruiting staff with recent knowledge or experience with elections.
- All-in, all-out elections every four years introduces a risk that an entirely new Council could be elected, with no Councillors with previous Local Government experience – especially for smaller Councils. This would create difficulty for Local Government officers and communities to engage with the Council, given that all Council members would be facing the same challenges developing their understanding of the role of Council members, and on their practical knowledge of governance and financial concepts and policies. While this situation may be considered unlikely, the smaller size of Councils across regional and rural Western Australia (including as a

result of recent reforms to limit Council size) materially increases the risk of this situation arising.

The State Government's recent changes to elections introduced backfilling provisions that were specifically aligned with the biennial cycle. The State Government did not include changing election timeframes in its 2021 reform package. The State Government should also prioritise ensuring that significant issues with the performance of the 2023 Local Government and 2025 State Government elections do not occur again.

There is a widely held view within Western Australia's Local Government sector that Councils should remain non-partisan, with elected members serving as independent representatives of their communities. Proposals or practices that may introduce or encourage party-political influence should be strongly resisted, as they are perceived to compromise the integrity, impartiality, and community-focused nature of Local Government decision-making.

On this basis, it is proposed that the Great Eastern Country Zone continues to maintain its support for the two-yearly (biennial) election cycle.

RESOLUTION

Mover: Shire of Bruce Rock

Seconder: Shire of Nungarin

That the Great Eastern Country Zone request that WALGA continues to advocate to the State Government to retain the current system of four-year teams with a two-year spill for Local Government elections.

CARRIED

10. ZONE BUSINESS

10.1. AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – 1 JULY 2023 TO 30 JUNE 2024

The audit of the Zone's 2023–24 financial statements has been completed, and the final audit documents were provided as an attachment to the Agenda.

The delay in issuing the final report was due to administrative matters, specifically the registration of WALGA's Chief Financial Officer with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), which was necessary to lodge the required documentation and finalise the audit.

The following matters were reported to the Committee:

1. 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. It was acknowledged that the current process has been formally approved and recorded in the Zone's meeting minutes. However, it was recommended that the Committee consider formally updating the Constitution.

The Committee noted the recommendation and will undertake the change to the Constitution at the next review of the Constitution.

2. There was an item identified in the Audit which required an adjustment to be made.

The Committee noted the adjustment.

RESOLUTION

Mover: Shire of Narembeen

Seconded: Shire of Cunderdin

That the Zone endorse the audited annual financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024.

CARRIED

10.2. REIMBURSEMENT OF 2024-25 ONLINE TRAINING EXPENSES

While the Zone has a long-standing rebate for online training expenses incurred by member Local Governments, provision in the Zone's budget has generally only been in every second financial year, to align with the biennial ordinary election cycle.

In June, the Shire of Kellerberrin requested reimbursement of online training expenses of \$2,000 incurred in 2024-25 (for which there was no budget provision). WALGA then identified that the Shires of Wyalkatchem and Yilgarn also incurred the same online training costs in that financial year.

The Executive Officer then sent information about this matter to the Zone's Executive Committee. The Executive Officer made a recommendation to provide the reimbursement to the three Shires on the basis that is generally consistent with the Zone's policy for reimbursement and is fair and reasonable in the circumstances.

The Executive Committee held an informal meeting to discuss the delegation on 10 July 2025. At this meeting, there was consensus that:

- The Shires of Kellerberrin, Wyalkatchem, and Yilgarn be granted a rebate by the Zone for the Council Member Essentials eLearning subscriptions (of \$2,000) they incurred in 2024-25.
- Those Shires, and the Zone more broadly, be reminded and requested to complete online training and seek reimbursement in the year after ordinary elections to align with the Zone's usual budgeting.
- An item is to be put to the Zone in line with the above at the next Zone meeting (on 18 August).

This agreement was documented via email on the same day. Accordingly, this item is being put to the Zone to close the matter.

RESOLUTION

Mover: Shire of Yilgarn
Seconder: Shire of Cunderdin

That the Zone:

1. **Note the decision to grant the Shires of Kellerberrin, Wyalkatchem, and Yilgarn a rebate by the Zone for the Council Member Essentials eLearning subscriptions (of \$2,000) they incurred in 2024-25.**
2. **Note that the Zone is reminded and requested to complete online training and seek reimbursement in the year after ordinary elections to align with the usual budget cycle.**

CARRIED

10.3. UPDATE ON TELSTRA ATU PILOT PROGRAM

A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

Noted.

10.4. ZONE EXPERIENCE SURVEY FEEDBACK

By Chantelle O'Brien, Zones Governance Officer

BACKGROUND

On 15 July a Zone Experience Survey was distributed to all WALGA-administered Zones. The audience captured in the survey were Delegates, Deputy Delegates, CEOs and Local Government staff that provide support to Delegates and CEOs.

The secretariat would like to thank everyone that completed the survey, which resulted in an impressive 136 responses received and 77 comments.

In summary, we are pleased to report that survey participants were generally very satisfied with how Zone meetings are coordinated. This included satisfaction with the timeliness of receiving Zone meeting papers, the format and contents of meeting papers, the communication of meeting schedules and updates, and overall support provided by the WALGA secretariat.

The comments received from survey participants were also generally positive, with many proposing possible process changes. These comments will be carefully considered and where possible, used to guide improvements to current processes.

It is proposed that this survey will be distributed on a 2-year basis so that continuous improvements can be made (next survey in late 2027). This will coincide with Zone Delegate membership terms.

Thank you again for your contributions and commitment to the betterment of our Zones process.

Noted.

10.5. 2025 WALGA HONOURS RECIPIENTS

By Chantelle O'Brien, WALGA Governance Support Officer

BACKGROUND

WALGA celebrated their 2025 Honours awards recipients at an event on Saturday, 19 July at the WA Museum Boola Bardip. Following the success of the inaugural standalone event last year, the awards night was held solely to acknowledge and appreciate the extraordinary efforts of Elected Members and Local Government Officers in service of their Local Government, the sector and the community.

There were 44 recipients of Honours awards in the 2025 program. Two new WALGA Life Members were also inducted.

Three Honours recipients were from the Great Eastern Country Zone:

Eminent Service Award	Cr Gary Charles Coumbe	Deputy President	Shire of Nungarin
Merit Award	Cr Kerry Lorelle Dayman	Councillor	Shire of Nungarin
Merit Award	Cr William (Bill) Huxtable	Councillor	Shire of Westonia

Congratulations to all Honours recipients!

Nominations for the 2026 Honours Program will open early next year.

Noted.

11. ZONE REPORTS

11.1. CHAIR REPORT

President Cr Tony Sachse

Welcome to our meeting for August 2025 and our last meeting before the Local Government Elections in October.

The meeting date needed to change due to a conflict with the LGIS Golf Tournament in Kellerberrin. As well, the venue has changed due to a conflict with the venue being booked in Merredin. Thank you for your understanding.

The Zone Executive met on Wednesday, 6 August 2025.

The Shire of Tammin is providing the 10-minute presentation today.

We have three guest speakers being Ms Hannah Godsave, Policy Manager Community at WALGA, Ms Nancy Bineham, Director Strategy, Change and Service Development at the WA Country Health Service Wheatbelt and Mr Leon Key, Director of Avonwest at Procon Developments.

Thank you to all the Agency representatives for sending in their respective reports and for your attendance today. There will be sufficient time to give an overview and take questions during the meeting.

Thanks to the Shire of Kellerberrin for hosting us today.

RESOLUTION

Mover: Shire of Westonia
Seconded: Shire of Wyalkatchem

That the Zone Chair's report be received.

CARRIED

11.2. WHEATBELT DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (DEMC)

President Cr Tony Sachse

The last meeting of the Wheatbelt DEMC was on Wednesday, 18 June 2025. The minutes of the meeting have not yet been distributed.

The Storm and Flood Preparedness Webinar was held on Thursday, 12 June 2025. The Land Search and Rescue (LANDSAR) webinar was held on 10 July 2025 and the EM Webinar Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements is to be held on 14 August 2025.

This year, the Wheatbelt DEMC is committed to building engagement opportunities for LGA Chief Executives and district level agency representatives ahead of the 2025-26 High-Risk Weather Period. As such, the DEMC is hosting a 1.5-day forum in Bruce Rock focused on understanding; the seasonal outlook, the plans & preparedness activities of emergency management agents, the vulnerabilities expected for the Wheatbelt over the season and discussing ongoing DEMC engagement and collaboration methods during the High-Risk Weather Period. All LGA CEOs have been invited to attend, or send a proxy.

This will be an in person only event. Day one, beginning at approx. 12.30 on Monday, 1 September, will be situated around introductions, keynote presentations and foundational emergency management knowledge, concluding with a sundowner barbecue. Day two, beginning at 8am and finishing by 3pm on Tuesday, 2 September, will dive deeper into different Hazard Management Agencies and Emergency Management Agents district level capability and preparedness plans leading into the High-Risk Weather Period.

The forum will be held in the Bruce Rock Town Hall, located 54 Johnson St, Bruce Rock.

Accommodation is sparse within Bruce Rock and will be heavily sought after. If you wish to stay the night, it is recommended that you explore accommodation options at your earliest convenience. A program was provided as an attachment with the Agenda.

Please RSVP to Shelby Robinson, including any dietary requirements, ASAP.

The Wheatbelt Operational Area Support Group (OASG)/ISG is now meeting on an as needed basis.

RESOLUTION

Mover: Shire of Yilgarn
Seconded: Shire of Bruce Rock

That the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee Report be received.

CARRIED

11.3. WALGA ROADWISE

Tracey Peacock, Regional Road Safety Advisor is an apology for the meeting.

The RoadWise report is attached (Attachment 4).

12. WALGA STATE COUNCIL EXECUTIVE REPORTS

12.1. WALGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

RESOLUTION

Mover: Shire of Cunderdin
Seconded: Shire of Mukinbudin

That the WALGA President's Report be received.

CARRIED

12.2. STATE COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cr Stephen Strange is an apology for this meeting.

The State Councillor Report was attached to the Agenda.

RESOLUTION

Mover: Shire of Bruce Rock
Seconded: Shire of Narembeen

That the State Councillor Report be received.

CARRIED

12.1. STATUS REPORT

Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
13 February 2025 Zone Agenda Item 14.1 WA Telstra Automatic Transfer Unit Pilot Deployment Program	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>The Infrastructure Policy Team supported this proposal.</p> <p>WALGA met with senior representatives from InfraCo (a subsidiary that holds Telstra's exchanges, poles, ducts, pits and pipes, and fibre network) and Telstra.</p> <p>Discussions with DPIRD and Telstra have commenced. It now seems likely that the service agreements will not be with Local Governments.</p>	August 2025	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031

5 March 2025 State Council Agenda Item 8.1 Climate Change Advocacy Position	The Zone supported the recommendation. However, the Zone also requests that WALGA remains open minded to further conversations on climate change.	<p>At the March State Council meeting it was resolved:</p> <p><i>That State Council refer this advocacy item back to the Environment Policy Team for further development.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 003.1/2025 CARRIED</p> <p>At the 24 March 2025 Environment Policy Team meeting, it was agreed that WALGA would develop a consultation approach for consideration by the Policy Team.</p> <p>At the 29 May 2025 meeting, the Policy Team agreed to the proposed consultation approach, which involves providing the composite Advocacy Position to all Local Governments for a 10-week consultation period, with Council endorsed or CEO approved feedback preferred. An additional Policy Team meeting will be held to consider comments and a composite resolution.</p> <p>The consultation is expected to commence by September 2025.</p>	August 2025	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039
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13. WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA

Zone Delegates are invited to read and consider the WALGA State Council Agenda, which was provided as an attachment with the 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.

13.1. RATING OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.1)

By Kirsty Martin, Manager Commercial Management and Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA Members have expressed uncertainty in the rating of large-scale renewable energy facilities across the State which was confirmed through a resolution of the Peel Country Zone Meeting in April 2025.
- In response to the uncertainty, WALGA engaged Paxon Consulting Group to review the rating mechanisms available for Local Governments to recover costs associated with large scale renewable energy projects.
- The purpose of the review was to examine the current legislative framework, undertake a review across other Australian jurisdictions in respect to who rating for such facilities is managed, and provide recommendations for the rating of these facilities in Western Australia, including any required amendments to legislation.
- The Final Report outlined seven Key Findings which confirmed that legislative change would be required to enable Local Governments to rate renewable energy facilities with certainty.

ATTACHMENT

- [Local Government Rating of Renewable Energy Facilities Report](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item relates to WALGA's Strategic Pillars of Influence, Support and Expertise.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There is no current advocacy position for the rating of large-scale renewable energy facilities. Endorsement of this item will enable the establishment of a position.

BACKGROUND

Western Australia's energy industry is transforming to achieve the goal of net zero emissions by 2050. Project proponents are active in many rural, remote and regional areas, seeking to develop renewable energy projects.

The placement, management and impact of renewable energy facilities have become contentious issues nationally and in local communities across Western Australia. Concerns have been raised regarding:

- the location of these facilities on agricultural land,
- the suitability of regulatory frameworks to ensure local communities benefit from the investment,
- the inability of the planning framework to manage on and off-site impacts of proposals, and impact on agricultural land use.

There have been an increasing number of conversations around compensation and cost recovery for those communities housing large scale renewable energy projects. Compensation is typically done through some sort of community benefits arrangement and WALGA has recently developed a Renewable Energy Community Benefits and Engagement Guide to assist WA Local Governments navigate discussions with developers and their communities.

The ability for Local Governments to recover costs (ie road maintenance, additional services used etc) incurred as part of the roll out of large-scale renewable energy projects is equally important. There is a lack of clarity around the best mechanism for achieving cost recovery and Local Governments have been seeking clarification on the applicable land value rating method of these facilities and how best to approach this going forward.

In response to this, WALGA engaged Paxon Consulting Group (Paxon) to review the rating mechanisms currently available to Local Governments to recover costs and provide advice on whether amendments to legislation are required to ensure Local Governments are able to equitably and fairly rate renewable energy facilities. Paxon also undertook a review of other Australian jurisdictions and existing case law to determine the rating options available to Western Australian Local Governments.

The Key Findings of the report are outlined below:

1. Under the current legislative framework, there is no clear method that allows WA Local Governments to impose rates on renewable energy facilities in their area, with certainty.
2. Each rating option considered in this report would require some legislative change to become a more certain and reliable avenue for Local Governments in the rating of renewable energy facilities.
3. In each case, the legislative change could be achieved with fairly 'blunt' legislative amendments – that is, introduction of a new standalone provision (or set of standalone provisions), and minimal amendments required to existing legislation.
4. Any legislative amendments to tighten the rating approach and/or introduce PiLoR should not (in principle) need to be extensive or overly complex.
5. With the PiLoR framework in particular – whilst this may involve more substantial legislative drafting (given that a new framework is needed), if the Victorian model was to be generally followed, this framework would be relatively straightforward and self-contained. This makes it arguably a 'cleaner' approach than the other options, as a (mostly) standalone mechanism – and a clear process – that has minimal interference with existing rate setting processes. Of course, practical matters, namely reaching political alignment on the specifics of the mechanism (especially methodology) and the roll-out / application, may instead give rise to challenges.
6. On all the options considered, the exact nature of the amendments should be determined by which approach or position will be most palatable from a political and policy perspective. For example, whilst WA Local Governments may wish to avoid the

time and uncertainly involved with a Ministerial determination / approval on any matters, it is unlikely that it can be avoided entirely (in which case the amendments would need to capture whatever approval rights would sit with the Minister).

7. Finally, if different options or permeations of rating options are used for different types of renewable energy assets, this would create another layer of legislative complexity and increase the scale of changes required.

The options for rating, including the advantages, limitations and ranking of each, are detailed in the Report. The rating options are ranked as follows:

1. PiLoR Framework
2. Differential Rating based on UV with no ratio limit
3. GRV Rating
4. Differential Rating based on GRV with no ratio limit

Although the PiLoR framework is more complex to implement, it is ranked first as it enables Local Governments to fairly and equitably rate renewable energy facilities through a cleaner, mostly standalone rating mechanism, bespoke to renewable energy assets, which is understood and accepted by the renewable energy sector.

The ability to apply a higher and uncapped differential rate determined by the Local Government is ranked second. This option is favoured over both the GRV options, as unlike the GRV options, this option does not require a valuation and is suitable for all renewable asset types.

The Report recommends the following:

1. WALGA to endorse support for the adoption of the PiLoR framework approach to the rating of renewal energy facilities.
2. WALGA to make representation to both the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety and the Department of Energy and Economic Diversification on the merits of the PiLoR framework.
3. WALGA to advocate for legislation amendment to enable WA Local Government to negotiate annual contributions with renewable energy proponents in lieu of rates.
4. WALGA should advocate to State Government to ensure any funds received through a potential community benefit arrangement are clearly identified as separate from the annual rates contributions.

COMMENT

WALGA acknowledges that even though the adoption of the PiLoR framework is the preferred option in the Report, it is also a more substantial change requiring the development of an entirely new framework across multiple State Government agencies.

This is likely to be a longer-term option and as such WALGA will advocate for this in parallel to the above legislative amendments. The adoption of a PiLoR framework in Western Australia would require a new legislative section(s) setting out:

- the legislative ability for an annual payment in lieu of rates;
- which land the process can apply to – noting in Victoria, it's land 'predominantly used' for the generation of electricity;
- the process for determining the quantum of the payment – ideally with a payment calculation methodology, at least as a 'fall back';
- a third party dispute resolution process; and
- any exemptions.

As identified in the Report, amendment to the current legislation pertaining to Local Government rating, is the most straightforward option. As such, WALGA will advocate for the following changes:

GRV Rating

For example, a new section to the effect that:

- if land has any renewable energy (RE) assets, the Minister will determine that the method of valuation is GRV for either the entire property, or the portion of (or lot(s) within) the property with RE assets, irrespective of the existing methodologies in the *Local Government Act 1995* (LG Act);
- when calculating the GRV under the *Valuation Land Act 1978* (VL Act), works effected to the land and items affixed to the land (including turbines, towers, masts and monitoring systems, panels, buildings, substations and connection points, roads, fencing, foundations cabling / connectors etc), are improvements, irrespective of whether above ground or underground, and irrespective of who owns the items.

Differential Rating (UV)

- A new section of the LG Act to the effect that the Minister's approval is not required where the (higher) differential rating category relates to land with RE Assets.
- This could / would be accompanied by a subsection with conditions or parameters on the setting of a higher differential rate, or requirement for compliance with a subsidiary document that contained such parameters.
- If the public consultation process (in s 6.36 of the LG Act) was to be removed or pared back for land with RE Assets, a new subsection in the LG Act would be required, to the effect that the process either did not need to be followed for this category, or setting out a more limited way in which it would apply.

Differential Rating (GRV)

As per legislative changes required under the GRV Rating and Differential Rating (UV) Options.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA advocate to the State Government for:

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.
2. A commitment to implement a Payment in Lieu of Rates (PiLoR) framework in Western Australia.

RESOLUTION

Mover: Shire of Nungarin

Seconded: Shire of Yilgarn

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

13.2. RATING OF MISCELLANEOUS LICENCES (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.2)

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Under section 6.26 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, all land is rateable unless specifically exempted.
- In a State Administrative Tribunal decision of 2024, it was determined that Crown land the subject of an occupied miscellaneous licence was non-rateable.
- Subsequently, the Shire of Mt Magnet appealed this decision to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court ruled that Crown land subject to a miscellaneous licence and occupied is rateable, overturning the State Administrative Tribunal decision.
- This ruling affirmed the principle that Local Governments may levy rates on such land, recognising the significant infrastructure and occupation associated with these licences.
- On 2 August 2025, the WA State Government announced its intention to legislate amendments to the *Local Government Act 1995* to exempt land under miscellaneous licences from rating.
- WALGA has been advocating for Local Governments to have the ability to rate these licences and a formal advocacy position is required.
- WALGA is seeking support from the WA Parliament for the appropriate committee to review the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995.

ATTACHMENT

- Supreme Court decision, [Shire of Mt Magnet v Atlantic Vanadium Pty Ltd \[2025\] WASC 274](#)
- [Ministers media release](#)
- [WALGA's media release](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item relates to WALGA's Strategic Pillars: Influence, Support and Expertise.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There is no specific advocacy position relating to miscellaneous licences. Endorsement of this item will enable the establishment of a position.

Current advocacy position 2.1.1 relates generally to Rating Exemptions Review:

Position Statement	<i>A broad review be conducted into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995.</i>
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BACKGROUND

Local Governments in Western Australia rely on property rates as a primary source of revenue to fund essential services and infrastructure. Under section 6.26 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, all land is rateable unless specifically exempted. Historically, exemptions have applied to land used for charitable, benevolent, religious, or public purposes, as well as small prospecting leases under 10 hectares and unoccupied miscellaneous licences.

A miscellaneous licence under the *Mining Act 1978* and the Mining Regulations 1981 (WA) sets out the purposes a miscellaneous licence may be granted for:

(a) a road; (b) a tramway; (c) an aerial rope way; (d) a pipeline; (e) a power line; (f) a conveyor system; (g) a tunnel; (h) a bridge; (i) taking water; (ia) a search for groundwater; (i) hydraulic reclamation and transport of tailings; (j) an aerodrome; (k) a meteorological station; (l) a sulphur dioxide monitoring station; (m) a communications facility; (n) a drainage channel; (o) a pump station; (p) a minesite accommodation facility; (q) a bore; (r) a bore field; (s) a water management facility; (t) a power generation and transmission facility; (u) a storage or transportation facility for minerals or mineral concentrate; (v) a minesite administration facility; [2025] (w) a workshop and storage facility; (x) a jetty.

In 2024, the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) determined that land under a miscellaneous licence was exempt regardless of occupation.

On an appeal from the Shire of Mt Magnet, in July 2025 the Supreme Court of Western Australia ruled that Crown land subject to a miscellaneous licence and occupied is rateable, overturning a previous SAT decision. This ruling affirmed the principle that Local Governments may levy rates on such land, recognizing the significant infrastructure and occupation associated with these licences.

However, the State Government has announced its intention to legislate amendments to the *Local Government Act 1995* to exempt land under miscellaneous licences from rating, citing the need to protect jobs and provide certainty to the mining sector.

WALGA has been advocating strongly for Local Governments to have the ability to rate these licences, however it is appropriate for State Council to endorse a formal position, aligning with existing advocacy position 2.1.1.

KEY ISSUES

- **Equity and Fairness:** Miscellaneous licences often support substantial infrastructure (e.g. roads, pipelines, bore fields, accommodation) that places demands on local services. Exempting such land from rates shifts the financial burden to residents and small businesses.
- **Legal Precedent:** The Supreme Court decision provides a clear legal interpretation that supports Local Governments' ability to rate occupied land under miscellaneous licences.
- **Community Impact:** Local Governments maintain infrastructure and services that benefit mining operations. Rates are a fair mechanism for mining companies to contribute to the communities they operate in.
- **State Government Proposal:** The proposed legislative change undermines the Supreme Court's decision and WALGA's advocacy for financial sustainability and fairness in rating practices.

COMMENT

WALGA strongly supports the Supreme Court's interpretation and opposes the State Government's proposed amendments. The Association maintains that:

- Occupied land under miscellaneous licences should be rateable.
- Mining companies should contribute to local communities through rates, just as other property owners do.
- Legislative changes should not override judicial decisions that promote equity and sustainability.

WALGA has advocated strongly on this issue following the State Government's announcement to legislate for a rating exemption for miscellaneous licences.

The following is a summary of WALGA's recent advocacy on this issue:

Thursday, 10 July 2025

- WALGA media statement – [Supreme Court decision supports critical role of Local Government](#)
- ABC Drive, [interview with Geraldine Mellet](#)

Saturday, 2 August 2025

- WALGA media statement – [WALGA condemns State Government move to legislate against Supreme Court decision](#)
- The West Australian, Rebecca Le May – [WA Local Government Association hits back as State Government shields miners from land rates](#)

Sunday, 3 August 2025

- The Sunday Times (pg. 5), Rebecca Le May – “Councils’ fury over mining land rates’

Monday, 4 August

- ABC News online, Chloe Henville – [“Move to exempt miners from paying rates on miscellaneous licenses 'concerning'”](#)
- ABC Mornings with Nadia Mitsopoulos – [“WALGA president Karen Chappel and AMEC CEO Warren Pearce discuss the State Government plan to prevent councils levying rates on miscellaneous licences”](#)
- 7 Regional News, Brandon Demura – [“State Government accused of re-writing rulebook for WA Councils”](#)
- ABC News Perth, Blake Kagi – [“Local Governments condemn State Government move”](#)

It is recommended that WALGA advocate for Local Governments to continue to have the ability to rate miscellaneous licences under the *Mining Act 1978*, and to oppose legislative amendments that seek to exempt occupied miscellaneous licence land from rating. In addition, continue to advocate that a broad review be conducted into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under section 6.26 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA:

1. Advocate for Local Governments to continue to have the ability to rate miscellaneous licences under the *Mining Act 1978*, and
2. Oppose legislative amendments that seek to exempt occupied miscellaneous licence land from rating.
3. Continue to advocate for a broad review to be conducted into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under section 6.26 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

RESOLUTION

Mover: Shire of Yilgarn

Seconder: Shire of Cunderdin

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

13.3. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY SPORTING AND RECREATION FACILITIES FUND ADVOCACY POSITIONS (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.3)

By Rebecca Hicks, Policy Officer Community

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Following a review of WALGA's Investing in Communities advocacy positions it is proposed that Advocacy Position 3.71 Community Infrastructure be updated, and that Advocacy Position 3.72 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund be retired.
- The proposed revisions intend to align the positions with current advocacy approaches and combine them into one position.
- The proposed changes were noted by the Infrastructure Policy Team and endorsed by the People and Place Policy Team in July 2025.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Endorsing the advocacy position updates and retirement aligns with the WALGA 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, in particular:

- Influence – Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government.
- Influence – Empower the Local Government sector to build communities equipped for the future.
- Support – Anticipate, understand and respond to Member needs.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- The replacement of Advocacy Position 3.71 Community Infrastructure with an updated position.
- The retirement of Advocacy Position 3.72 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund.

BACKGROUND

Local Governments own, lease, maintain and are major stakeholders in community infrastructure across Western Australia. This includes 233 public libraries, as well as cultural centres, performance spaces, galleries, recreation centres and playgrounds. Community infrastructure provides essential community benefits but requires significant capital and ongoing maintenance to upkeep the investment.

Advocacy Position 3.71 defines community infrastructure as including, but not limited to, community pools, sport and recreation facilities, community resource centres, visitor servicing centres, child health centres, community centres, parks, playgrounds, skate parks, public libraries, arts and cultural centres, and shared facilities that Local Governments operate.

The State Government Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) was established in 1974 to provide financial support to Local Governments and community groups to develop sport and recreation infrastructure. The fund is well utilised by Local Governments and has been oversubscribed in recent years. The State Government's annual contribution to CSRFF was halved in the 2025-24 State Budget to \$12 million. Sector feedback indicates that rising construction costs have rendered current State CSRFF contributions insufficient to guarantee project viability. The Cook Government 2025 election commitments, confirmed in the 25-26 State Budget, provide funding for several new location-specific infrastructure investments.

The current CSRFF advocacy position includes a request for two million dollars per annum, quarantined for female representation. The 2025-26 State Budget included \$6 million to establish a 'Boosting Women and Girls Participation in Sport' grant program and \$23.9 million to support Local Governments and community sporting organisations to upgrade facilities for women at targeted locations.

There is no equivalent ongoing funding for community arts and culture infrastructure. Advocacy calling for this ongoing funding was included in [The West at its Best](#) as an identified priority need for the sector.

[WALGA's Federal election priorities](#) includes the call for \$500 million per year for community infrastructure through formula based targeted Local Government funding. This funding ask is not currently captured in the WALGA Advocacy Manual.

There are no current funding programs specifically for retrofitting accessible design features to community infrastructure. However, the importance of ensuring universal access to community infrastructure aligns with several State Government strategic documents, including the [State Infrastructure Strategy Recommendation 88](#) and [A Western Australia for Everyone: State Disability Strategy 2020-2030](#).

This advocacy position review was discussed by the Infrastructure Policy Team and endorsed by the People and Place Policy Team in July 2025.

3.7.1 Community Infrastructure

It is proposed that WALGA's **current** advocacy position:

The Association continues to advocate for better planning and support for community infrastructure and investment by the State, Australian and private partners.

be **replaced** with:

Local Governments own, lease, and maintain vital community infrastructure across Western Australia that delivers essential benefits to local communities. Local Governments face significant funding pressures to ensure this infrastructure is effectively planned, developed, maintained, and enhanced to meet evolving community need and population growth.

1. *WALGA calls on the Australian Government to provide \$500 million per annum for community infrastructure through a national formula based, targeted Local Government funding program.*
2. *WALGA calls on the State Government to:*
 - a. *provide \$30 million per annum for the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund*
 - b. *provide \$30 million per annum for community arts and cultural infrastructure,*
 - c. *provide funding for retrofitting accessible design features to community infrastructure*
 - d. *align all community infrastructure funding with existing State co-contribution of at least two-thirds.*

3.7.2 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund

It is proposed that WALGA's **current** position be **retired**:

The Local Government sector advocates for the State Government to:

1. *increase the CSRFF funding pool to at least \$25 million per annum and revert the contribution ratio to 50% split to enable more community programs and infrastructure to be delivered; and*
2. *increase the \$1 million per annum quarantined for female representation to at least \$2 million per annum.*

COMMENT

The proposed revisions provide a broad statement for ongoing investment in community infrastructure, reflecting the significant financial cost of upkeep, including costs associated with retrofitting accessible design features to existing infrastructure. Providing State and Australian Government funding through ongoing open grant programs provides a more equitable and sustainable funding source.

Combining the community infrastructure advocacy positions aims to streamline WALGA advocacy with specific points that reflect WALGA priorities as set out in the [2023-24 State Budget submission](#), [The West at its Best](#) and the [Federal Election Priorities](#), focused on sustainable stewardship of community infrastructure, including:

- Arts and culture
- Sports and recreation
- Accessible design features

The shift from a fifty per cent to a two-thirds State funding contribution reflects a strategic alignment of community infrastructure advocacy with prevailing funding frameworks in the broader infrastructure sector. This ensures consistency and reinforces the case for equitable investment across all infrastructure categories.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA:

1. Replace Advocacy Position 3.7.1 Community Infrastructure with the following:

Local Governments own, lease, and maintain vital community infrastructure across Western Australia that delivers essential benefits to local communities. Local Governments face significant funding pressures to ensure this infrastructure is effectively planned, developed, maintained, and enhanced to meet evolving community needs and population growth.

1. *WALGA calls on the Australian Government to provide \$500 million per annum for community infrastructure through a national formula based, targeted Local Government funding program.*
2. *WALGA calls on the State Government to:*
 - a. *Provide \$30 million per annum for the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund,*
 - b. *Provide \$30 million per annum for community arts and cultural infrastructure,*
 - c. *Provide funding for retrofitting accessible design features to community infrastructure,*

d. Align all community infrastructure funding with existing State co-contribution of at least two-thirds.

2. Retire Advocacy Position 3.7.2 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund.

RESOLUTION

Mover: Shire of Dowerin

Seconded: Shire of Narembeen

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

13.4. RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH SERVICES ADVOCACY POSITION (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.4)

By Hannah Godsave, Policy Manager Community

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The provision of healthcare services is both an Australian and State responsibility.
- The WALGA Local Government Primary Healthcare Services Survey provides a comprehensive dataset of the cost, nature and geographical location of Local Government support predominantly focused on General Practice services.
- The recommended revisions update the Advocacy Position to align with the data and recommendations of the Survey Report and provide a framework for further advocacy.
- The People and Place Policy Team considered and endorsed the proposed changes at its meeting on 9 July.

ATTACHMENT

- [Local Government Primary Healthcare Services Survey](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Revising Advocacy Position 3.2.2 aligns to the WALGA 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, in particular:

- Influence – Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government.
- Support – Provide practical sector-wide solutions based on research and evidence.
- Expertise - Foster relationships between our subject matter experts and stakeholders.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The replacement and renaming of Advocacy Position 3.2.2 Regional Health Services with an updated position titled Rural and Remote Health Services.

BACKGROUND

In 2023, WALGA commissioned Rural Health West (RHW) to survey WA Local Governments to ascertain the extent to which Local Governments were providing financial or in-kind support to secure primary healthcare services. The Survey Report provides a comprehensive dataset on the cost, nature, and geographical location of Local Government support, as well as evidence that Local Government support was predominantly focused on General Practice services.

This issue has been identified as a priority for the sector at a number of forums, including the October 2024 Band 4 Local Governments meeting, the May 2025 Zones meetings, priority responses and member advocacy being undertaken by the [Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance](#).

WALGA has begun a renewed advocacy campaign, with targeted asks of the Australian and State Governments to improve access to primary health services in rural and remote areas, to remove the need for Local Government intervention.

The People and Place Policy Team considered and endorsed the proposed advocacy position changes at its meeting on 9 July.

It is proposed that WALGA's **current** Advocacy Position 3.2.2 Regional Health:

The Association supports continuing to work with affected Local Governments and key stakeholders to identify and develop collaborative strategies. The Association supports continuing to advocate to the State Government to prioritise regional health and the regional health workforce. The Association supports developing a policy connection with the Australian Local Government Association as a pathway for advocating for stronger specialised regional health workforces.

Be **replaced** with:

3.2.2 Rural and Remote Healthcare Services

The Western Australian and Australian Governments are responsible for ensuring that all West Australians have equitable access to primary healthcare services, regardless of their location. Local Governments should not have to step in to support the provision of these services for their communities.

1. *WALGA calls on the Western Australian and Australian Governments to address the systemic failures in the provision of rural and remote primary healthcare services, including through:*
 - a. *the development and implementation of adequate, appropriate and sustainable funding models.*
 - b. *incentivising rural and remote healthcare workforce recruitment and retention.*
2. *Local Governments should be reimbursed for costs incurred to support the provision of primary healthcare services until sustainable funding and workforce models are in place.*

COMMENT

Access to primary health is a critical issue for a large proportion of WALGA members. Local Government support of primary healthcare services creates a financial impost and diverts funding from other Local Government services and functions.

The proposed revisions provide a stronger position on the responsibility of the Australian and State Governments for primary healthcare provision and addressing the cost impost on Local Government, compelled to intervene where the current health system is failing.

The revised position aligns with the wider healthcare reform platform to enable advocacy partnerships and to provide a level of flexibility for the advocacy campaign in response to Government announcements. Terminology changes from regional health to rural and remote, aligns with the language used across healthcare advocacy and reflects that Local Government support for healthcare services is concentrated in areas of smaller populations. Framing the position around financial reimbursement enables sector diversity in response to community need and avoids implying an ongoing funding role for Local Government.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA replace Advocacy Position 3.2.2 Regional Health Services with the following:

The Western Australian and Australian Governments are responsible for ensuring that all West Australians have equitable access to primary healthcare services, regardless of their location. Local Governments should not have to step in to support the provision of these services for their communities.

1. *WALGA calls on the Western Australian and Australian Governments to address the systemic failures in the provision of rural and remote primary healthcare services, including through:*
 - a. *the development and implementation of adequate, appropriate and sustainable funding models*
 - b. *incentivising rural and remote healthcare workforce recruitment and retention.*
2. *Local Governments should be reimbursed for costs incurred to support the provision of primary healthcare services until sustainable funding and workforce models are in place.*

RESOLUTION

Mover: Shire of Bruce Rock

Seconder: Shire of Kellerberrin

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

13.5. HEALTH ADVOCACY POSITION (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.5)

By Hannah Godsave, Policy Manager Community

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Advocacy Position 3.2 relates to public health and predates the *Public Health Act 2016* and the commencement of Stage 5 of the Act in June 2024.
- The position is superseded by Advocacy Position 3.2.1 *Local Public Health Plans*, which was revised in September 2024 to align to the 2016 Act and specifically the implementation of Local Public Health Plans.
- The People and Place Policy Team considered and endorsed the retirement of Advocacy Position 3.2 Health at its meeting on 9 July.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Retiring Advocacy Position 3.2 aligns to the WALGA 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, in particular:

- Influence – Lead policy development for the Local Government sector.
- Expertise – Optimise organisational capability to service members' needs.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The retirement of Advocacy Position 3.2.1 Health.

BACKGROUND

Advocacy position 3.2.1 Health, endorsed in 2005, states:

The Association supports improving health outcomes for Western Australians through the investment in and provision of infrastructure and delivery of services in partnership with health professionals.

This position was last cited in a 2022 WALGA submission to the Department of Health relating to the Statutory Review of the *Food Act 2008*.

The position predates the commencement of the *Public Health Act 2016* and Stage 5 of the Act in 2024, which requires all Local Governments to develop and publish a Local Public Health Plan.

This position is superseded by advocacy position 3.2.1 relating to public health planning and specifically the implementation of Local Public Health Plans:

3.2.1 Local Public Health Plans

WALGA supports the objects and principles of the Public Health Act 2016.

The State Government must ensure that:

1. *Guidance, tools and resources are developed to support the development of Local Public Health Plans; and*
2. *Funding is provided for:*
 - a. *smaller rural and regional councils to support the development of Local Public Health Plans; and*
 - b. *the implementation of actions under Local Public Health Plans.*

The People and Place Policy Team endorsed the revisions to this position in September 2024.

COMMENT

Given changes in State public health legislation and the recent revisions to advocacy position 3.2.1 that cover the aspects of public health alluded to in advocacy position 3.2, this position is no longer required and should be retired.

The People and Place Policy Team considered and endorsed that Advocacy Position 3.2 Health be retired at its meeting on 9 July.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA retire Advocacy Position 3.2 Health.

RESOLUTION

Mover: Shire of Bruce Rock

Seconder: Shire of Mukinbudin

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

13.6. ADVOCACY POSITIONS FOR ACTIVE TRANSPORT AND MICROMOBILITY (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.6)

By Negar Nili, Policy Officer Transport and Roads

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Six new advocacy positions are proposed, with the aim of providing a clear and unified framework to support Local Governments in planning, delivering, and advocating for walking, cycling, and other forms of Active Transport (AT).
- The new advocacy positions are intended to strengthen WALGA's voice in state and national forums, guide responses to legislative or policy changes, and ensure the sector is well-represented in cross-government initiatives related to AT.
- These positions reflect the growing role of AT in addressing key policy areas including health, sustainability, road safety, and urban liveability. The policy statements cover six key areas:
 - Active Transport Vision and Strategy
 - Funding
 - Safety
 - Education, Encouragement, and Community Engagement
 - eRideables
 - Active Travel to School
- The Infrastructure Policy Team considered and recommended the proposed AT advocacy positions for endorsement by State Council at its meeting on 4 August.

ATTACHMENT

- [Summary of Issues, Challenges for Active Transport in WA](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The new advocacy positions align to the WALGA 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, in particular:

- Influence – Lead policy development for the Local Government sector.
- Support – Provide practical sector-wide solutions based on research and evidence.
- Expertise – Promote a dynamic, agile, high-performance culture.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The new advocacy positions will complement existing [Advocacy Positions](#):

- 5.2.5 The Role of Local Government in the Future Management of Warden Controlled Children's Crossings
- 5.2.7 Driving Change - Road Safety Strategy 2020-2030
- 5.3.3 Cycling on Footpaths
- 5.3.4 Licencing cyclists and registering bicycles
- 5.3.5 Active Travel to Schools
- 5.3.6 Pedestrian Crossings

BACKGROUND

In March 2024, State Council, through the Infrastructure Policy Team requested that WALGA organise a policy forum to better understand issues relating to Active Transport (AT) and develop an integrated policy and advocacy platform. This enhanced focus on AT formed the basis for extensive consultation with Local Governments over the last 18 months. The consultation process was primarily directed at identifying gaps in AT policy and AT infrastructure needs and involved extensive consultation with Local Government AT officers

as well as workshops with Elected Members and senior stakeholders from relevant State agencies.

The WALGA Transport and Roads team met with over 30 Local Government officers and held two workshops with diverse stakeholders to support the development and refinement of a discussion paper that examines AT and micromobility in the Western Australian, Local Government context. The consultation process with Local Governments highlighted a range of issues, challenges, and gaps facing AT initiatives in WA, offering valuable insights into Local Governments unique needs and perspectives as they work to enhance AT infrastructure and promote sustainable mobility. The information gathered was summarised into ten key challenges experienced across jurisdictions:

Strategic Issues	Challenges
1. Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speeding and inappropriate travel speed Driver attitude towards vulnerable road users Lack of safe crossing points and limited space
2. Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited (no) funding for amenities
3. Network Gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding
4. Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding limits are a key challenge and focus of solutions
5. Integration in Plans and Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low community uptake and behaviour change
6. Incentives and Disincentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Car dependency and low awareness of active transport benefits
7. Public Transport Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bikes not permitted on public transport during peak hours
8. Education and Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No dedicated lead Fragmented efforts across multiple parties
9. E-Rideables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unclear regulation and enforcement
10. Travel to Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor planning for AT in school areas Limited school staff capacity to manage funding Inaccessible or inadequate grant funding

These challenges have been addressed in six proposed advocacy positions:

- Active Transport Vision and Strategy
- Funding
- Active Transport Safety
- Education/Encouragement/Community Engagement
- eRideables
- Active Travel to School

ADVOCACY POSITIONS

Active Transport Vision and Strategy	
Position Statement	<i>Local Governments recognise the public health, environmental, community, economic and transport benefits offered by active transport and calls on all levels of government to work toward increasing active transport.</i>

	<p><i>WALGA calls on the State and Federal Governments to work with the Local Government sector to develop and implement an Active Transport vision, strategy and actions with measurable goals to increase mode share of active transport. The Active Transport Strategy should include allocation of responsibilities to agencies and identification of sustainable funding.</i></p> <p><i>The relationships to other strategic plans should be defined to align a whole-of-government approach.</i></p>
Background	<p>Active Transport mode share in Western Australia is low compared with many global cities. Increasing the share of trips by active modes provides many benefits including reduced traffic congestion, less atmospheric pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions, improved health through incidental physical activity and opportunities for enhanced community interaction.</p> <p>Integrating an Active Transport Vision and Strategy with other strategic plans will encourage considerations for active travel to be embedded across all planning, design and operational processes.</p>
Priority Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage Local Governments to embed measures to enable Active Transport in all Local Government operations, policies, and programs. • Call on the State Government to embed the provision of active transport infrastructure in State planning regulations and guidelines • Invest in stakeholders planning with clearly defined, shared outcomes. • Adopt a cross-government approach, with common performance measures across relevant departments to measure progress. • Promote a greater understanding of Active Transport user needs within all stages of planning and project delivery. • Normalise Active Transport in all infrastructure and policy discussions so that it becomes business as usual. • Better integrate active and public transport through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advocating that the PTA provide appropriate end of trip facilities at public transport nodes including secure parking and storage. ○ Calling on the PTA to provide for the carriage of bicycles and eRideables on all train services. ○ Call on the PTA to explore opportunities to accommodate bicycles on buses. • Invest in data collection, management and analysis to inform investment in active transport infrastructure and programs including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establishing a comprehensive, standardised data-sharing framework and platform for active transport information.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adopting video and AI-driven solutions to enhance the quality and efficiency of data collection, analysis and reporting. ○ Develop a platform dedicated for comprehensive collection and analysis of Active Transport incident data, providing insights to improve safety, infrastructure design and strategic planning. ● Require that design guidance for the public realm provides safe and attractive environment for active transport. ● Provide safety through convenient priority road and rail crossing points for pedestrians and other active transport users and appropriate amenity including quality paths, drinking water at suitable intervals, shade and seating.
Key Challenges Addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Closing network gaps - Travel to Schools - Safety

Funding	
Position Statement	<i>WALGA calls on Federal and State Governments to provide a step change in funding for Active Transport by providing consistent, long-term investment to support Local Governments in planning, delivering, and maintaining AT infrastructure, programs, and supporting initiatives.</i>
Background	Active Transport is vital to creating healthier, more connected, and sustainable communities. Despite this, funding to support AT—across infrastructure, programs, planning, and maintenance—remains limited, inconsistent, and often short-term. This restricts Local Governments' ability to deliver integrated, accessible AT options that meet community needs. Sustained and coordinated funding is essential to increase uptake, improve safety, and ensure the long-term success of active travel initiatives.
Priority Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Committing to a ten-year allocated funding program to deliver the Long-Term Cycle Network, based on a co-founded model of up to one-third contribution from Local Government. ● Providing non-competitive cost indexed grants based on the extent of the defined active transport network for renewal / maintenance to support appropriate levels of service and asset longevity. ● Establish a new Local Destination Program to fund the development of safe and accessible routes to key community destinations, including schools, train stations, and activity centres. ● Significantly increase overall investment in Active Transport to reflect its role in health, sustainability, and transport outcomes, and bring funding levels closer to international benchmarks.

Key Challenges Addressed	- Funding
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Active Transport Safety	
Position Statement	<i>WALGA calls on the State Government for the provision of safe, pedestrian/bicycle-priority crossing points; safer speeds on local roads and around community hubs, schools, and public transport nodes; and road diet treatments to support safer environments for all users of the road network.</i>
Background	High traffic volumes and vehicle speeds contribute significantly to unsafe conditions for people walking, cycling, and using other forms of Active Transport. Creating safer streets requires a combination of infrastructure improvements, speed management, and environmental design strategies that prioritise the most vulnerable users.
Priority Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve safety for active transport users at existing roundabouts and intersections. • Seek reforms to Main Roads WA's speed zoning policies and processes to enhance Local Governments' influence in setting speed limits on local streets and distributor roads. • Support road design changes such as tree planting, lane narrowing, and other physical measures that promote slower, safer streets. • Reduce through-traffic volumes on all roads except Primary Distributors, especially in residential and mixed-use areas. • Target safety improvements in high-risk locations, including school precincts and public transport hubs. • Support complementary education initiatives to raise awareness of active transport user safety and responsible road use.
Key Challenges Addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safety - Travel to schools

Education/Encouragement/Community Engagement	
Position Statement	<i>When coupled with investment in infrastructure, education and encouragement programs effectively support the uptake of active transport modes and a cultural shift in attitudes toward active transport. WALGA calls on key stakeholders to form a coalition to advance mode shift to active transport initiatives, support infrastructure implementation, and realise a coordinated, multi-channel approach.</i>
Background	Education, encouragement, and community engagement are essential to increasing the uptake of Active Transport. Beyond infrastructure, shifting travel behaviour relies on building public understanding of the benefits, availability, and safe use

	<p>of Active Transport options. Raising awareness among both the community and key stakeholders helps normalise Active Transport, promote safety, and support long-term behavioural change.</p> <p>Public education campaigns can highlight the benefits of walking, cycling, and micromobility, while also addressing knowledge gaps around safe practices and existing networks. Targeted engagement with schools, local communities, and service providers—such as transport operators and enforcement agencies—can foster a more supportive environment for AT use across all settings.</p>
Priority Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call on the State Government to develop guidance and materials (e.g. toolkits) that support travel behaviour change and promote safe, responsible use of Active Transport and Micromobility. • Adopt a cross-government approach to deliver targeted training for relevant stakeholders on how to safely and respectfully interact with active transport users. • Support behaviour changes programs through incentives such as parking cash-out schemes, and other supportive measures. • Encourage Local Governments to provide a platform to raise public awareness of existing active transport facilities and the benefits of using them.
Key Challenges Addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education and community engagement

eRideables	
Position Statement	<p><i>WALGA calls on the State Government to develop and implement a comprehensive regulatory framework to address the safety, sale, and use of escooters and other eRideables in Western Australia. The State Government should consult with stakeholders, including Local Governments, to ensure that the framework is practical, enforceable, and responsive to on-the-ground challenges.</i></p>
Background	<p>The use of eRideables—such as e-scooters and similar micromobility devices—is rapidly growing across Western Australia. While these devices offer affordable, low-emission transport options, the current regulatory framework has not kept pace with their adoption. Issues such as the sale of non-compliant devices, inconsistent enforcement, and public safety concerns—particularly in high pedestrian activity areas—are placing pressure on Local Governments and other stakeholders. There is a clear need for a coordinated, state-led response that balances innovation with safety, enforcement, and community wellbeing.</p>

Priority Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing clear rules and enforcement to prevent the importation and sale of non-compliant or illegal eRideable devices. • Strengthen enforcement mechanisms and apply appropriate penalties to ensure compliance with existing laws. • Introduce and utilise equipment to verify compliance with legal performance limits. • Empower Local Governments to regulate the use of eRideables in high pedestrian activity areas, particularly on inner-city footpaths and shared spaces. • Develop a State-led eRideable Safety Action Plan in collaboration with key stakeholders. • Ensure that Local Governments are meaningfully engaged in this process, with WALGA providing formal representation. • Deliver targeted education and awareness initiatives for school-aged children and their parents to promote informed purchasing decisions, understanding of relevant rules, rider courtesy, and safe riding behaviour.
Key Challenges Addressed	- eRideables

Active Travel to School	
Position Statement	<i>WALGA recognises that enabling and encouraging active transport to and from schools delivers wide-ranging benefits – including improved public health, reduced traffic congestion, environmental sustainability, and stronger community wellbeing. Despite these benefits, barriers such as safety concerns, limited school resources, and lack of supportive infrastructure prevent the widespread uptake of active travel among students. WALGA supports a coordinated, long-term approach to embed active transport into the school environment, supported by targeted investment, planning, and program delivery.</i>
Background	Supporting children to walk, cycle, or scoot to school contributes to broader goals in public health, transport efficiency, environmental sustainability, and community safety. However, achieving these outcomes requires more than just physical infrastructure. Success depends on a collaborative approach involving schools, Local and State Government, parents, and community organisations. Active travel needs to be embedded as a normal, supported, and safe part of daily life for families. Addressing the existing barriers will require long-term coordination, consistent funding, and stronger alignment between education, transport, and planning systems.

Priority Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing sustained investment in school and community-based active travel programs. • Ensure funding is accessible through clear grant processes and supported by dedicated officers to assist schools with limited staff capacity. • Increase incentives for Traffic Wardens at Children's Crossings. • Encourage car-free zones around schools, where appropriate, to improve safety. • Guidance for schools and local governments to undertake connectivity studies and prioritise low-cost, high-impact improvements. • Integrate active transport education into the school curriculum and culture. • Plan and deliver infrastructure that ensures children can travel safely and independently to school.
Key Challenges Addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Closing Network Gaps - Travel to Schools - Education and community engagement - Funding

COMMENT

The proposed policy positions collectively address critical areas needed to advance AT across Western Australia. Each position strengthens WALGA's advocacy platform and supports Local Governments in addressing current and emerging challenges.

Active Transport Vision and Strategy

A clear, coordinated strategy is essential to embed AT across planning, infrastructure, and service delivery. Currently, efforts are fragmented and lack measurable goals or alignment between agencies. A shared vision and defined responsibilities will support integrated planning and prioritisation of resources at all levels of government.

Funding

Inconsistent, short-term funding limits Local Governments' ability to deliver and maintain Active Transport infrastructure and programs. A long-term, sustainable funding framework aligned with national and international benchmarks is critical to achieving health, environmental, and transport outcomes.

Active Transport Safety

High traffic speeds and unsafe infrastructure are key barriers to AT uptake. A safe, low-speed environment supported by appropriate design and policy measures is necessary to protect vulnerable road users and improve community confidence in walking, cycling, and other forms of active mobility.

Education, Encouragement, and Community Engagement

Behaviour change requires more than infrastructure. Effective education and engagement build public understanding, increase awareness, and help normalise Active Transport. A coordinated approach involving communities and relevant stakeholders is vital for shifting attitudes and increasing uptake.

eRideables

The rapid uptake of eRideables has outpaced the current regulatory framework, creating enforcement, safety, and infrastructure challenges. A comprehensive, State-led framework, developed with Local Government input is needed to address compliance, regulation, and safety in a rapidly evolving mobility landscape.

Active Travel to School

Despite its wide-ranging benefits, Active Travel to School remains low due to safety concerns, infrastructure gaps, and limited school resources. A more coordinated, long-term approach is needed, one that integrates planning, education, and investment to support safe, independent travel for students.

The proposed advocacy positions were endorsed by the Infrastructure Policy Team on 4 August.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA endorse the proposed advocacy positions on Active Transport and micromobility.

RESOLUTION

Mover: Shire of Wyalkatchem

Seconder: Shire of Yilgarn

That the Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.6 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

13.7. OTHER STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

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.

14. EMERGING ISSUES

Nil

15. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Executive Committee and Zone will be held as follows.

Month	Executive Committee	Zone
November	Tuesday, 4 November at 8:00am MS Teams	Thursday, 13 November at 9:30am Shire of Kellerberrin

As the Executive Committee is meeting after the Ordinary Elections but prior the Zone meeting at which the Executive Committee is to be re-appointed, the Executive Committee (constituted of members as appointed before the Ordinary Elections) will meet in a caretaker capacity.

16. CLOSURE

The Chair reflected on the past term and expressed appreciation to those who had contributed to the Zone.

Special thanks were extended to Cr Stephen Strange, who is retiring as State Councillor, and Cr Wayne Della Bosca, who is retiring as a Councillor. Cr Della Bosca addressed the meeting to reflect on his tenure with the Zone and to thank other Zone delegates.

The Chair also thanked all members for their contributions over the past two years and expressed appreciation to the WALGA secretariat for the support they have provided throughout the term.

The Chair expressed his best wishes to everyone for the upcoming elections.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 12.57pm.