

State Council Summary Minutes 3 December 2025

Ordinary meeting no. 5 of 2025 of the Western Australian Local Government Association State Council held at LV3 ONE70 Railway Parade, West Leederville at 4:20pm.

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1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1 OPENING

The Chair declared the meeting open at 4:20pm.

1.2 ATTENDANCE

Members	WALGA President - Chair	Karen Chappel AM JP
	WALGA Deputy President	Paul Kelly
	Central Metropolitan Zone	
	Avon-Midland Country Zone	Chris Antonio
	Central Country Zone	Phillip Blight
	Central Metropolitan Zone	Helen Sadler
	East Metropolitan Zone	Paige McNeil
	East Metropolitan Zone	Cate McCullough
	Gascoyne Country Zone	Matthew Niikkula
	Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	Laurene Bonza
	Great Eastern Country Zone	Stephen Strange
	Great Southern Country Zone	Scott Crosby
	Kimberley Country Zone	Chris Mitchell
	Murchison Country Zone	Les Price
	Northern Country Zone	Liz Sudlow
	North Metropolitan Zone	Mark Irwin
	North Metropolitan Zone	Lewis Hutton
	North Metropolitan Zone	Eman Seif
	Peel Country Zone	Mike Walmsley
	Pilbara Country Zone	Audra Smith
	South East Metropolitan Zone	Patrick Hall
	South East Metropolitan Zone	Terresa Lynes
	South Metropolitan Zone	Barry Winmar
	South Metropolitan Zone	Karen Wheatland
	South Metropolitan Zone	Robert Schmidt
	South West Country Zone	Donelle Buegge
Ex Officio	The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor – City of Perth	Bruce Reynolds
	LG Professionals WA President	Scott Wildgoose
Secretariat	Chief Executive Officer	Nick Sloan
	Executive Manager Advocacy	Rachel Horton
	Executive Manager Infrastructure	Ian Duncan
	Executive Manager Member Services	Kirsty Martin
	Executive Manager Policy	Nicole Matthews
	Chief Financial Officer	Rick Murray
	Manager Governance and Procurement	Felicity Morris
	Manager Association and Corporate Governance	Kathy Robertson
	State Council Governance Officer	Habiba Farrag
Observers	Avon Midland Country Zone	Lincoln Stewart (<i>Deputy</i>)
	Central Metropolitan Zone	Ben Mayes (<i>Deputy</i>)
	Central Metropolitan Zone	Liam Gobbert (<i>Deputy</i>)

Northern Country Zone
Policy Manager, Planning and Building
Manager Economics
Policy Manager Emergency
Management
Manager Commercial Services
Principal Policy Advisor, Economic
Development

Jude Sutherland (*Deputy*)
Chris Hossen
Daniel Thomson
Rachel Armstrong

Sam McLeod
Saul Cresswell

1.3 APOLOGIES

Nil.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

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

Barry Winmar delivered a Welcome to Country.

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

President, Karen Chappel AM JP, on behalf of WALGA offered her condolences to the Shire of Ravensthorpe for the recent loss of their Deputy President, Mark Mudie, who lost his life fighting the West River bushfire near Ravensthorpe on Monday, 1 December 2025.

4 MINUTES

4.1 MINUTES OF THE STATE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 5 SEPTEMBER 2025

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Karen Wheatland

Seconded: Chris Mitchell

That the Minutes of the WALGA State Council meeting held on [5 September 2025](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

RESOLUTION 066.5/2025

CARRIED

4.1.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE STATE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 5 SEPTEMBER 2025

Nil.

4.2 FLYING MINUTE – SUBMISSION FOR DRAFT GUIDELINES ON COMMUNITY BENEFITS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Les Price

Seconded: Barry Winmar

That the [Flying Minute – Submission for Draft Guidelines on Community Benefits for Renewable Energy Projects](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

RESOLUTION 067.5/2025

CARRIED

4.2.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE – SUBMISSION FOR DRAFT GUIDELINES ON COMMUNITY BENEFITS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

Nil.

4.3 FLYING MINUTE – COMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENT SUBMISSION

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Les Price

Seconded: Barry Winmar

That the [Flying Minute – Communications Agreement Submission](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

RESOLUTION 067.5/2025

CARRIED

4.3.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE – COMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENT SUBMISSION

Nil

4.4 FLYING MINUTE – WALGA SUBMISSION ON THE AMENDMENT REGULATIONS AND DRAFT CHAPTERS OF THE WA PLANNING MANUAL

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Les Price
Seconded: Barry Winmar

That the [Flying Minute – WALGA Submission on the Amendment Regulations and Draft Chapters of the WA Planning Manual](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

RESOLUTION 067.5/2025

CARRIED

4.4.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE – WALGA SUBMISSION ON THE AMENDMENT REGULATIONS AND DRAFT CHAPTERS OF THE WA PLANNING MANUAL

Nil.

4.5 FLYING MINUTE – WALGA SUBMISSION ON PHASE 2 REFORMS TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK LAW

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Les Price
Seconded: Barry Winmar

That the [Flying Minute – WALGA Submission on Phase 2 Reforms to Western Australia's Working with Children Check Law](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

RESOLUTION 067.5/2025

CARRIED

4.5.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE – PHASE 2 REFORMS TO WA'S WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK LAW

Nil.

4.6 FLYING MINUTE – WALGA SUBMISSION TO THE EDUCATION AND HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO COMMUNITY USE OF WA PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Les Price
Seconded: Barry Winmar

That the [Flying Minute – WALGA Submission to the Education and Health Standing Committee Inquiry into Community Use of WA Public School Facilities](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

RESOLUTION 067.5/2025

CARRIED

4.6.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE – WALGA SUBMISSION TO THE EDUCATION AND HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO COMMUNITY USE OF WA PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES

Nil.

4.7 FLYING MINUTE – WALGA SUBMISSION TO THE FEDERAL SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS REFERENCE COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE NATIONAL CULTURAL POLICY

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Les Price
Seconded: Barry Winmar

That the [Flying Minute – WALGA Submission to the Federal Senate Environment and Communications Reference Committee Inquiry into the National Cultural Policy](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

RESOLUTION 067.5/2025

CARRIED

4.7.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE – WALGA SUBMISSION TO THE FEDERAL SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS REFERENCE COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE NATIONAL CULTURAL POLICY

Nil.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

- Helen Sadler declared an impartiality interest in Item 8.8 Selection Committee Minutes.
- Karen Wheatland declared an impartiality interest in Item 8.8 Selection Committee Minutes.

6 EX OFFICIO REPORTS

6.1 CITY OF PERTH REPORT

Lord Mayor Bruce Reynolds provided the City of Perth report to the meeting.

6.2 LG PROFESSIONALS REPORT

Mr Scott Wildgoose, President of LG Professionals WA, provided a report to the meeting.

Robert Schmidt left the meeting at 4:38pm and returned at 4:40pm.

Karen Wheatland left the meeting at 4:39pm and did not return.

7 EMERGING ISSUES

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

7.1 TRANSPORT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT ADVOCACY POSITION

Referred by Helen Sadler, Central Metropolitan Zone

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Patrick Hall
Seconded: Helen Sadler

That the Emerging Issue relating to Transport Oriented Development Advocacy Position be considered.

RESOLUTION 068.5/2025

CARRIED

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Helen Sadler
Seconded: Chris Mitchell

That:

- 1. State Council request WALGA to prepare an Advocacy Position in consultation with Members, regarding the transport and planning principals required to ensure quality outcomes in the newly announced "Station Precinct Improvement Plans and Schemes" in Metropolitan Perth and regional stations if included.**
- 2. The Advocacy Position will include transport and place-making outcomes on both government controlled and private land that maximise liveability and use of the public transport network.**

RESOLUTION 069.5/2025

CARRIED

8 MATTERS FOR DECISION

8.1 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Phil Blight
Seconded: Chris Antonio

That:

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

RESOLUTION 070.5/2025

CARRIED

8.2 2026 SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES TRIBUNAL REMUNERATION INQUIRY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND ELECTED MEMBERS

By Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance

COMPOSITE RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Chris Mitchell
Seconded: Stephen Strange

That State Council endorse the submission to the 2026 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members, with the following additions:

- 1. A new recommendation that the Regional/Isolation Allowance be reviewed in full, noting that the application of the Allowance is unequal and inconsistent.**
- 2. A new recommendation that an appropriate fee be set for the deputy to the presiding member of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees to attend meetings.**
- 3. A new recommendation that the travel costs incurred while driving a privately owned or leased vehicle be calculated at the same rate contained in the *Public Service Award 1992* to bring it in parity with the public sector.**

AMENDMENT

Moved: Terresa Lynes
Seconded: Paige McNeil

To add a point 4:

- 4. The percentage values in recommendations 1 and 2 of the submission be amended from 3% to 4%.**

RESOLUTION 071.5/2025

CARRIED

AMENDMENT

Moved: Lewis Hutton
Seconded: Paul Kelly

To add a point 5:

- 5. Include a work-value argument regarding Elected Member remuneration to strengthen the case for an increase to Elected Member fees and allowances, and to refer the request to reclassify Elected Members as not volunteers to the relevant Policy Team.**

RESOLUTION 072.5/2025

CARRIED

THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION AS AMENDED WAS PUT

That State Council endorse the submission to the 2026 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members, with the following additions:

- 1. A new recommendation that the Regional/Isolation Allowance be reviewed in full, noting that the application of the Allowance is unequal and inconsistent.**
- 2. A new recommendation that an appropriate fee be set for the deputy to the presiding member of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees to attend meetings.**
- 3. A new recommendation that the travel costs incurred while driving a privately owned or leased vehicle be calculated at the same rate contained in the *Public Service Award 1992* to bring it in parity with the public sector.**
- 4. The percentage values in recommendations 1 and 2 of the submission be amended from 3% to 4%.**
- 5. Include a work-value argument regarding Elected Member remuneration to strengthen the case for an increase to Elected Member fees and allowances and to refer the request to reclassify Elected Members as not volunteers to the relevant Policy Team.**

RESOLUTION 073.5/2025

CARRIED

8.3 TOURISM ADVOCACY POSITION UPDATE

By Saul Cresswell, Principal Policy Advisor Economic Development

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Chris Antonio

Seconded: Phil Blight

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

WALGA calls on the State Government to:

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

RESOLUTION 074.5/2025

CARRIED

8.4 WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVOCACY POSITIONS

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager Environment and Waste

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Laurene Bonza

Seconded: Paige McNeil

That State Council retire Advocacy Positions:

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

RESOLUTION 075.5/2025

CARRIED

8.5 ELECTORAL MATERIAL – AUTHORISATION STATEMENT ADDRESS REQUIREMENTS

By Felicity Morris, Manager Governance and Procurement

COMPOSITE RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Patrick Hall

Seconded: Lewis Hutton

That WALGA:

1. Advocate to the State Government to amend section 4.87 of the *Local Government Act 1995* to:
 - a. Replace the requirement to include the name and address of the person authorising the electoral material, with a requirement to include the name and locality of the person authorising the material.
 - b. Remove the requirement for the name and business address of the electoral material printer to appear at the end of the electoral material.
2. Advocate to the State Government to amend section 5.95 of the *Local Government Act 1995* to specify that the right to inspect Primary and Annual Returns contained in the Register of Financial Interests under s.5.94(b) does not extend to the residential address of the relevant person.

AMENDMENT

Moved: Paige McNeil

Seconded: Barry Winmar

To refer point 2 to the Governance Policy Team so that a full report can be presented to State Council for consideration.

RESOLUTION 076.5/2025

CARRIED

THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION AS AMENDED WAS PUT

That:

1. WALGA advocate to the State Government to amend section 4.87 of the *Local Government Act 1995* to:
 - a. Replace the requirement to include the name and address of the person authorising the electoral material, with a requirement to include the name and locality of the person authorising the material.
 - b. Remove the requirement for the name and business address of the electoral material printer to appear at the end of the electoral material.
2. The suggestion from the South East Metropolitan Zone to advocate to amend section 5.95 of the *Local Government Act 1995* to specify that the right to inspect Primary and Annual Returns contained in the Register of Financial Interests under s.5.94(b) does not extend to the residential address of the relevant person be

referred to the Governance Policy Team so that a full report can be presented to State Council for consideration.

RESOLUTION 077.5/2025

CARRIED

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY STATE COUNCILLORS (UNDER SEPARATE COVER)

8.6 FINANCE AND SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES – 20 NOVEMBER 2025

WALGA's Chief Financial Officer, Rick Murray provided a presentation on the mid-year budget revision 2025-26.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Chris Antonio
Seconded: Helen Sadler

That State Council endorse:

- 1. the Minutes of the Finance and Services Committee meeting held on 20 November 2025; and**
- 2. the revised Budget 2025-26.**

RESOLUTION 078.5/2025

CARRIED

8.7 LOCAL GOVERNMENT HOUSE TRUST BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MINUTES – 20 NOVEMBER 2025

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Paul Kelly
Seconded: Chris Antonio

That State Council endorse the Minutes of the Local Government House Trust Board of Management meeting held on 20 November 2025.

RESOLUTION 079.5/2025

CARRIED

8.8 SELECTION COMMITTEE – 18 NOVEMBER 2025

Helen Sadler declared an impartiality interest in this item and remained in the room. Karen Wheatland, who had also declared an impartiality interest in this item, was no longer in the meeting.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Paul Kelly
Seconded: Les Price

That State Council:

- 1. notes the resolutions contained in the 18 November 2025 Selection Committee Minutes; and**
- 2. endorse the Selection Committee's recommendation contained in the 18 November 2025 Selection Committee Minutes.**

RESOLUTION 080.5/2025

CARRIED

8.9 LGISWA BOARD MINUTES INCLUDING LGISWA CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CHARTER AND PROPOSED FIT AND PROPER POLICY – CONFIDENTIAL

By Sam McLeod, Manager Commercial Services

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Chris Antonio
Seconded: Paige McNeil

That State Council:

- 1. note the Minutes of the LGISWA Board meetings held on 22 August 2025 and 8 September 2025;**
- 2. in line with the Board's resolution of 8 September 2025, endorse amendments to the LGISWA Corporate Governance Charter (including the establishment of a Fit and Proper Policy);**
- 3. in line with the Board's resolution of 8 September 2025, endorse that WALGA as Trustee may make minor typographical corrections to the LGISWA Corporate Governance Charter as necessary.**

RESOLUTION 081.5/2025

CARRIED

8.10 LGISWA BOARD APPOINTMENT - CONFIDENTIAL

By Sam McLeod, Manager Commercial Services

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Chris Antonio

Seconded: Phil Blight

That State Council re-appoint Kelly Hick as an Independent Director for a second three-year term, expiring on 30 April 2029.

RESOLUTION 082.5/2025

CARRIED

8.11 APPOINTMENTS TO STATE COUNCIL POLICY TEAMS AND COMMITTEES

WALGA RECOMMENDATION 1

Moved: Chris Antonio

Seconded: Chris Mitchell

That the appointments of State Councillors to Policy Teams and the Finance and Services Committee as outlined below be endorsed:

Finance and Services Committee – (four State Councillors)

- Chris Antonio
- Eman Seif
- Liz Sudlow
- Paul Kelly

Environment Policy Team – (five State Councillors)

- Les Price
- Teresa Lynes
- Karen Wheatland
- Mike Walmsley
- Cate McCullough

Governance Policy Team – (five State Councillors)

- Paige McNeil
- Scott Crosby
- Patrick Hall
- Mark Irwin
- Chris Mitchell

Infrastructure Policy Team – (five State Councillors)

- Helen Sadler
- Matthew Niikkula
- Laurene Bonza
- Stephen Strange
- Lewis Hutton

People and Place Policy Team – (five State Councillors)

- Phil Blight
- Audra Smith
- Robert Schmidt
- Donelle Buegge
- Barry Winmar

RESOLUTION 083.5/2025

CARRIED

WALGA RECOMMENDATION 2

Moved: Helen Sadler

Seconded: Les Price

That the appointments of State Councillors to Committees as outlined below be endorsed:

Honours Panel (four State Councillors – two Metropolitan, two Country)

State Councillors

- Les Price
- Eman Seif
- Audra Smith
- Patrick Hall

Selection Committee (four State Councillors – two Metropolitan, two Country)

State Councillors

- Matthew Niikkula
- Les Price
- Teresa Lynes
- Karen Wheatland

Local Government House Trust Board of Management (two State Councillors – one Metropolitan, one Country plus two representatives from the beneficiaries – one Metropolitan, one Country)

Due to the high level of interest in the LGHT Board, all four positions will be filled by State Councillors.

State Councillors

- Chris Antonio
- Robert Schmidt
- Paige McNeil
- Laurene Bonza

Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (five State Councillors)

Association Delegates

- Karen Wheatland
- Laurene Bonza
- Robert Schmidt
- Donelle Buegge
- Lewis Hutton

Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee (four State Councillors – two Metropolitan, two Country)

State Councillors

- Helen Sadler
- Stephen Strange
- Chris Mitchell
- Barry Winmar

RESOLUTION 084.5/2025

CARRIED

9 POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY TEAM REPORT

Presented by Policy Team Chair, Cr Stephen Strange

NOTED

9.2 PEOPLE AND PLACE POLICY TEAM REPORT

Presented by Policy Team Chair, President Cr Phillip Blight

NOTED

9.3 GOVERNANCE POLICY TEAM REPORT

Presented by Policy Team Chair, Mayor Patrick Hall

NOTED

9.4 ENVIRONMENT POLICY TEAM REPORT

Presented by Policy Team Chair, Cr Les Price

NOTED

9.5 MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL (MWAC) REPORT

Presented by MWAC Member, Cr Les Price

NOTED

RESOLUTION

Moved: Laurene Bonza
Seconded: Audra Smith

That Items 9.1 to 9.5, Policy Team and Committee Reports, be noted.

RESOLUTION 085.5/2025

CARRIED

10 MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

10.1 WALGA TRANSPORT AND ROADS FORUM 2025: SUMMARY REPORT

By Negar Nili, Policy Officer Transport and Roads

NOTED

10.2 POLYPHAGOUS SHOT-HOLE BORER (PSHB): TRANSITION TO MANAGEMENT

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager Environment and Waste

NOTED

10.3 GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO INDEPENDENT BIOSECURITY AND AGRICULTURE MANAGEMENT ACT REVIEW

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager Environment and Waste

NOTED

10.4 FLYING MINUTE – SUBMISSION FOR DRAFT GUIDELINES ON COMMUNITY BENEFITS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

By Lisa Harwood, Principal Policy Advisor Economic Development

NOTED

10.5 FLYING MINUTE – COMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENT CONSULTATION SUBMISSION

By Kirsty Martin, Executive Manager Member Services and Felicity Morris, Manager Governance and Procurement

NOTED

10.6 FLYING MINUTE – WALGA SUBMISSION ON THE AMENDMENT REGULATIONS AND DRAFT CHAPTERS OF THE WA PLANNING MANUAL

By Coralie Claudio, Senior Policy Advisor Planning

NOTED

10.7 FLYING MINUTE – WALGA SUBMISSION ON PHASE 2 REFORMS TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK LAW

By Rebecca Hicks, Policy Advisor Community

NOTED

10.8 FLYING MINUTE – WALGA SUBMISSION TO THE EDUCATION AND HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO COMMUNITY USE OF WA PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES

By Rebecca Hicks, Policy Advisor Community

NOTED

10.9 FLYING MINUTE – WALGA SUBMISSION TO THE FEDERAL SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS REFERENCE COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE NATIONAL CULTURAL POLICY

By Rebecca Hicks, Policy Advisor Community

NOTED

RESOLUTION

Moved: Terresa Lynes
Seconded: Barry Winmar

That items 10.1 to 10.9, Matters for Noting / Information, be noted.

RESOLUTION 086.5/2025

CARRIED

11 ORGANISATION REPORTS

11.1 KEY ACTIVITY REPORTS

11.1.1 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, ADVOCACY PORTFOLIO

By Rachel Horton, Executive Manager Advocacy

NOTED

11.1.2 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO

By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure

NOTED

11.1.3 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, MEMBER SERVICES PORTFOLIO

By Kirsty Martin, Executive Manager Member Services

NOTED

11.1.4 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, POLICY PORTFOLIO

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy

NOTED

RESOLUTION

Moved: Liz Sudlow
Seconded: Stephen Strange

That items 11.1.1 to 11.1.4, Key Activity Reports, be noted.

RESOLUTION 087.5/2025

CARRIED

11.2 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Chris Antonio left the meeting at 5:46pm and returned at 5:49pm.

NOTED

11.3 CEO'S REPORT

NOTED

12 ADDITIONAL ZONE RESOLUTIONS

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Chris Mitchell
Seconded: Paige McNeil

That the additional Zone Resolutions from the November 2025 round of Zones meetings be referred to the relevant Portfolio for consideration and appropriate action.

RESOLUTION 088.5/2025

CARRIED

CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE (POLICY PORTFOLIO)

Cost Shift Compliance Project Update

That the Central Country Zone refer Position 1 in the Zone's Cost Shifting and Compliance Report to State Council for consideration as a WALGA Advocacy Position. That is, to "reinstate the requirement for a Regulatory Impact Assessment for all amendments to legislation and regulation".

CENTRAL METROPOLITAN ZONE (POLICY PORTFOLIO)

Installation of LifeVac® Anti-Chocking Devices at Suitable Community Facilities in Western Australia

That the Central Metropolitan Zone request WALGA to request the Health Department to investigate the efficiency and feasibility of airway clearing devices, and report back to State Council with a view to WALGA forming an advocacy position, if appropriate.

EAST METROPOLITAN COUNTRY ZONE, PEEL COUNTRY ZONE and SOUTH EAST METROPOLITAN ZONE (POLICY AND MEMBER SERVICES PORTFOLIOS)

Advocacy Request

That WALGA develop draft Advocacy Positions with respect to:

1. Prohibiting mining and exploration activities within designated water catchment areas, recognising their critical role in public water supply, biodiversity protection, and community amenity
2. Consistent with the findings of the Office of the Auditor General Performance Audit on the Management of State Agreements (2024), the need for the State to commit to the early, consistent, and genuine engagement of local government in:
 - a. the future review of State Agreement Acts within or impacting their district.
 - b. any associated approval or consultation processes regarding exploration, future mine planning, and development.
 - c. ensuring alignment with contemporary environmental legislation and community engagement standards.
 - d. representative monitoring or regulatory bodies

GASCOYNE COUNTRY ZONE (INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO)

Membership of State Roads Committee (SAC)

That the Gascoyne Country Zone recommends that the WALGA members of SAC comprise of the below:

- WALGA CEO
- City representative (Metro)
- Regional cities representative

- Rural representative (South)
- Remote representative (North of the 26th parallel)

GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY ZONE (POLICY PORTFOLIO)

Review of the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF)

That the Great Eastern Country Zone:

1. Express its concern at the ongoing review of the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) without a timeline for completion or confirmation of the program's future structure or funding levels.
2. Request WALGA to advocate to the Minister for Sport and Recreation and the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport (CITS) for:
 - a. Public release of the CSRFF review's scope, commencement date and expected completion timeline;
 - b. Confirmation of the program's continuation and funding levels beyond the review period, with increases to reflect inflation, demand, and regional construction costs;
 - c. Commitment that CSRFF will remain a merit-based, transparent, and equitable program accessible to regional and metropolitan communities alike; and
 - d. Urgent communication of future funding round dates to enable regional local governments and community clubs to plan projects effectively.
3. Request WALGA to highlight to the Minister that the lack of certainty around CSRFF is jeopardising the fruition of regional projects vital to community wellbeing, participation, and sustainability.

GREAT SOUTHERN COUNTRY ZONE (MEMBER SERVICES PORTFOLIO)

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1960 – Review

That the WALGA State Council advocate for the State Government to comprehensively review the *Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1960* to achieve at least, the following:

1. broaden the Act's scope and establish contemporary provisions addressing all modern interfaces between landowners, local governments and the public,
2. establish penalties to create a meaningful disincentive for landowner non-compliance with provisions of the Act, and
3. enable a local government to impose penalties against livestock owners who consistently allow their livestock to stray and create a nuisance, without the need to first create a local law or initiate a prosecution.

GREAT SOUTHERN COUNTRY ZONE (POLICY AND MEMBER SERVICES PORTFOLIOS)

Work Health and Safety Act 2020 – Statutory Review

That WALGA State Council advocate for the introduction of relevant amendments to the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* so that Bush Fire Brigade volunteers are not deemed as a Local Government "Worker" (as defined in the WHS Act).

GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE COUNTRY ZONE (MEMBER SERVICES PORTFOLIO)

Rateability of Miscellaneous and Mining Licenses – Sector Support Discussion

That the GVROC:

1. Endorses the WALGA and Shire of Mount Magnet positions in opposing any amendment to the *Local Government Act 1995* that removes the rateability of Miscellaneous Licences or Mining Leases;
2. Supports the GVROC Chair and Executive Officer writing to the Minister for Local Government to express the GVROC's strong concerns of the introduction of the *Local Government Amendment (Rating of Certain Mining Licences) Bill 2025* to Parliament.

3. Request the GVROC Executive Officer to seek clarification on the issue from WALGA and a copy of the letter it has sent to the Minister for Local Government and bring the item back to the GVROC State Council meeting on 24 November 2025 for further consideration and discussion.

GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE COUNTRY ZONE (POLICY PORTFOLIO)

Polyphagous Shot-hole borer update

While the GVROC has noted the WALGA updates in Agenda Item 10.2, it makes the following comments for consideration by WALGA and the State Council:

- The GVROC request stronger communication and transparency in the provision of more information and updates from the State Government and DPIRD that will assist all local governments that have now been left with responsibility to manage the PSHB situation and containing its potential spread outside the current expanded quarantine areas.
- The GVROC would like to strong advocacy position from WALGA to request from the State Government the reintroduction of dedicated bio-security officers being placed out in the regions to manage ongoing and new biosecurity threats. Having on the ground officers has worked in the past and should be reintroduced to assist local governments in the regions.

GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE COUNTRY ZONE (POLICY PORTFOLIO)

Unfunded Local Government Responsibilities under the State Hazard Plan – Fire

That the GVROC:

1. Note the unfunded cost implications for Local Governments under the *State Hazard Plan – Fire (v3.00, August 2025)*.
2. Endorse the GVROC Chair and Executive Officer to engage with WALGA to:
 - A. Request DFES and the Minister for Emergency Services to provide:
 - I. A dedicated funding stream for BRM Plans, inspections, and preparedness obligations.
 - II. Clarify funding responsibilities for UCL, Native Title, pastoral leases, and abandoned mine leases.
 - III. Recognise Local Governments' role in recovery, with State-funded support packages.
 - B. Seek reforms to the ESL Levy system to ensure funds collected through Local Governments are returned to support their statutory fire obligations.
 - C. Request that non-rateable Crown and State lands (DBCA, Native Title, UCL, pastoral) be subject to State contributions in lieu of rates to offset the cost-shifting burden.

GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE COUNTRY ZONE (MEMBER SERVICES PORTFOLIO)

Strengthening Oversight and Accountability of Candidate Conduct During Local Government Elections

That the GVROC request the Chair and Executive Officer to advocate to WALGA and the Minister for Local Government, requesting an amendment to the Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021 to enable greater enforcement of Code of Conduct breaches by candidates, regardless of whether they are elected or not.

MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE (POLICY PORTFOLIO)

Call for the Office of the Auditor General to conduct a Performance Audit of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA)

That the Murchison Country Zone request WALGA and other WALGA Zones to call upon the Office of the Auditor General to conduct a performance audit of Recovery and Resilience management of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements in Western Australia.

MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE (INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO)

Unsustainable Changes to the Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV) Network

That the Murchison Country Zone request WALGA to:

1. Call for Heavy Vehicle Services decision makers and assessors to be placed permanently or regularly in regional MRWA offices rather than their current insular Perth offices; and
2. Directs MRWA to immediately rescind CA07 condition and the road owners (local governments') to have the discretion for RAV permit vehicle access on local government roads.

MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE (MEMBER SERVICES PORTFOLIO)

Local Government Amendment (Rating of Certain Mining Licenses) Bill 2025

That the Murchison Country Zone request WALGA to:

1. Explore alternative options to the unreasonably punitive Local Government Amendment (Rating of Certain Mining Licenses) Bill 2025.
2. Support a request for the current bill to be forwarded to an enquiry by the Legislative Council.

PILBARA COUNTRY ZONE (MEMBER SERVICES)

State Agreements

That the Pilbara Country Zone requests State Council work with the State Government in the provision of the State Agreements and the impact on the community including obligations for reporting and financial agreements be put in place with Local Government in the areas of industry of mining operations.

SOUTH METROPOLITAN ZONE (POLICY PORTFOLIO)

Advocacy for Strategic Investment in Sporting Infrastructure to Support Increased Female Participation

That the South Metropolitan Zone request the WALGA State Council to:

1. Strengthen its existing Advocacy Position 3.7.2 on the provision of female-friendly facilities, and progress actions to address identified needs.
2. Advocate for improved sector-wide planning approaches that support increased female participation in community sport and inclusive facility design.
3. Develop operational guidelines for enhancing the use and effectiveness of existing sporting infrastructure to better accommodate increased demand and female participation.
4. Support and contribute to the Australian Sports Commission's development of the National Sports Infrastructure Action Plan, with a focus on inclusive and flexible community facility provision.
5. Lobby the State Government to prioritise funding for infrastructure upgrades that address the shortfall in female-friendly amenities, including changerooms, safety lighting, and flexible scheduling access.

SOUTH METROPOLITAN ZONE (POLICY PORTFOLIO)

2026 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members

That the South Metropolitan Zone requests that WALGA consider advocating for an increase to JDAP remuneration.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of the WALGA State Council will be held in the Boardroom at WALGA, ONE70, LV3, 170 Railway Parade, West Leederville on Wednesday, 4 March commencing at 4:15pm.

The State Council meeting dates for 2026 are as below:

Wednesday, 4 March WALGA
Wednesday, 6 May Regional meeting Central Metropolitan Zone
Wednesday, 1 July WALGA
Thursday-Friday, 3-4 September Regional meeting Central Country Zone
Wednesday, 2 December WALGA

14 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 6:03pm.