

State Council Agenda

2 September 2026

Ordinary meeting no. 4 of 2026 of the
Western Australian Local Government
Association State Council to be held at the
City of Perth at 12:00pm.

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1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1 OPENING

1.2 ATTENDANCE

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

1.3 APOLOGIES

Members	Central Country Zone	Phillip Blight
	Central Country Zone	Leigh Ballard (<i>Deputy</i>)
	Central Metropolitan Zone	Helen Sadler
Ex Officio	Local Government Professionals WA President	Mr Anthony Vuleta

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

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

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

4 MINUTES

4.1 MINUTES OF THE STATE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 1 JULY 2026

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the WALGA State Council meeting held on [1 July 2026](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

4.1.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE STATE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1 JULY 2026

4.2 FLYING MINUTE – WALGA SUBMISSION ON THE NATIONAL BIOSECURITY REFORM AGENDA

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the [Flying Minute – WALGA Submission on the National Biosecurity Reform Agenda](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of decision.

4.2.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE – WALGA SUBMISSION ON THE NATIONAL BIOSECURITY REFORM AGENDA

4.3 FLYING MINUTE – PROPOSAL TO DECLARE SECOND GENERATION ANTICOAGULANT RODENTICIDES AS RESTRICTED CHEMICAL PRODUCTS

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the [Flying Minute – Proposal to Declare Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides as Restricted Chemical Products](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of decision.

4.3.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE – PROPOSAL TO DECLARE SECOND GENERATION ANTICOAGULANT RODENTICIDES AS RESTRICTED CHEMICAL PRODUCTS

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

6 EX OFFICIO REPORTS

6.1 CITY OF PERTH REPORT

Lord Mayor, Cr Bruce Reynolds, will provide the City of Perth report to the meeting.

6.2 LG PROFESSIONALS REPORT

Mr David Bentley, Deputy President, LG Professionals WA, will provide a report to the meeting.

7 EMERGING ISSUES

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

8 MATTERS FOR DECISION

8.1 RETIREMENT OF ADVOCACY POSITIONS ACHIEVED BY REFORM

By Felicity Morris, Manager Governance and Procurement

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council retire the following Advocacy Positions:

- 1. 2.5.17 – Clear Lease Requirements for Candidate and Vote Eligibility**
- 2. 2.5.19 – Re-Counts**
- 3. 2.5.27 – Annual Review of Certain Employee's Performance**
- 4. 2.5.33 – Vexatious and Frivolous Complainants**
- 5. 2.6 – Group Ticket Voting**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA has been undertaking a process of reviewing and updating Advocacy Positions.
- Five Advocacy Positions within Section 2 (Governance and Organisational Services) of the [Advocacy Position Manual](#) have been reviewed, with a recommendation to retire these Positions as their intended outcomes have been achieved through legislative changes.
- The Governance Advisory Group considered these positions at their meeting held on 22 July 2026 and recommends the retirement of these positions to State Council.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report recommends that the below items be retired from the existing WALGA Advocacy Positions Manual.

2.5.17 – Clear Lease Requirements for Candidate and Vote Eligibility

The Local Government sector supports reforms to prevent the use of 'sham leases' in Council elections, including:

- 1. Requiring a minimum lease period of 12 months for anyone to register a person to vote or run for Council;*
- 2. Making home-based businesses ineligible to register a person to vote or run for Council because any residents are already eligible voter(s) for that address;*
- 3. Clarifying the minimum criteria for leases eligible to register a person to vote or run for Council; and*
- 4. Publishing the basis of eligibility for each candidate (e.g. type of property and suburb of property), including in the candidate pack for electors.*

2.5.19 Re-Counts

The Local Government sector supports the introduction of standard processes for vote re-counts if there is a very small margin (e.g. 10 or fewer votes) between candidates, inclusive of Regulations that specify the circumstances in which the Returning Officer must arrange for some or all of the votes to be re-counted.

2.5.27 – Annual Review of Certain Employee's Performance

Section 5.38 of the Local Government Act 1995 should be deleted, or amended so there is only a specific requirement for Council to conduct the Chief Executive Officer's annual performance review.

2.5.33 – Vexatious and Frivolous Complainants

A statutory provision should be developed, permitting a Local Government to:

- 1. Enable discretion to refuse to further respond to a complainant where the CEO of the Local Government is of the opinion that the complaint is trivial, frivolous or vexatious or is not made in good faith, or has been determined to have been previously properly investigated and concluded, similar to the terms of section 18 of the Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1971.*
- 2. Provide for a complainant, who receives a Local Government discretion to refuse to deal with that complainant, to refer the Local Government's decision for third party review.*
- 3. Enable Local Government discretion to declare a member of the public a vexatious or frivolous complainant for reasons, including abuse of process; harassing or intimidating an individual, Elected Member or employee of the Local Government; or unreasonably interfering with the operations of the Local Government.*

2.6 Group Ticket Voting

The Local Government sector supports the removal of group ticket voting from the Legislative Council electoral system, and supports reforms modelled on the Senate reforms of 2016.

BACKGROUND

The Governance Advisory Group currently oversees approximately 100 Advocacy Positions on a wide range of issues. As part of a comprehensive review program, the WALGA Governance team is assessing these positions to identify opportunities to streamline and strengthen existing Advocacy Positions, while also updating or retiring those that have become outdated or superseded. At the meeting held on 22 July 2026, the Governance Advisory Group agreed to recommend to State Council the retirement of the positions outlined in this report.

COMMENT

Following recent legislative changes, particularly the ongoing reforms to the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act), several positions have been identified for retirement as their objectives have been achieved.

2.5.17 – Clear Lease Requirements for Candidate and Vote Eligibility

This Position was adopted at the February 2022 Special State Council meeting.

Amendments to the Act and *Local Government (Elections) Regulations 1997* have achieved the following:

- Requirement of a right of occupation for a period of 12 months prior to an enrolment eligibility claim (Section 4.32(3)).
- Occupation of a residence does not constitute occupation for the basis of enrolment, with the effect that home based businesses are ineligible, while residents are enrolled on the residents' roll (Elections r10A(2)(a)).

- Detailed minimum requirements for leases to constitute a basis for enrolment (Section 4.23, Elections r.10A, 12B, 12C).
- The basis of enrolment eligibility (resident, owner or occupier) must be identified by the Returning Officer and included in the information that must be published about each candidate for election (Elections r.29A).

Given that all elements of Position Statement 2.5.17 have been addressed through legislative reform, it is recommended that this Advocacy Position be retired.

2.5.19 Re-Counts

This Position was adopted at the December 2023 State Council meeting.

Amendments to the *Local Government (Elections) Regulations 1997* in 2025 introduced a new Part 12D, establishing requirements for mandatory recounts if the margin is less than a defined re-count threshold.

Given that the objective of the Position has now been achieved, it is recommended that this policy position be retired.

2.5.27 – Annual Review of Certain Employee's Performance

Section 5.38 of the Act has been amended to specify that the Local Government (Council) is responsible for the Chief Executive Officer's performance review, while the CEO is responsible for ensuring that the performance of each other employee for more than 1 year is reviewed.

When the *Local Government Amendment Act 2023* takes full effect, Section 5.38 will be further amended to expand on the process required for a CEO performance review and remove all references to employees other than the CEO.

As the required change has been achieved it is recommended that Position 2.5.27 be retired.

2.5.33 – Vexatious and Frivolous Complainants

This Position was adopted at the March 2019 State Council meeting.

On 1 January 2026, amendments to the Act took effect inserting a new Part 5, Division 11 – Restricting communication about complaints.

The new provisions:

- Provide CEOs with the authority to restrict communication with complainants in certain circumstances, including where the complaint has been responded to, would divert substantial resources, is vexatious, misconceived, frivolous or without substance.
- Provide a mechanism for review and oversight by the Local Government Inspector.

Considering these legislative changes, it is proposed that that Position 2.5.33 be retired, as the intent of the Advocacy Position has been substantially addressed through the Act.

2.6 Group Ticket Voting

This Position was adopted at the June 2021 State Council meeting.

Amendments to the *Electoral Act 1907* have implemented reforms that abolish group ticket voting and introduce optional preferential voting for the Legislative Council. These changes

were affected through legislative amendments, including the removal of Part IV (ss. 104–133) by the *Electoral Amendment (Finance and Other Matters) Act 2023*.

Given that the objective of Position 2.6 has now been achieved, it is recommended that this Advocacy Position be retired.

8.2 CIRCULAR ECONOMY ADVOCACY POSITION

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the following new Circular Economy Advocacy Position:

- 1. Local Government supports the principle of a circular economy and recognises its potential to:**
 - a. maximise the value and use of resources through a products life cycle; and**
 - b. minimise environmental and financial impacts associated with the manufacture, distribution and post consumption management of products.**
- 2. Local Government calls on the:**
 - a. State Government to undertake a detailed study to determine how Western Australia can move toward a circular economy.**
 - b. Australian Government to:**
 - i. establish and maintain a regulated product stewardship framework for products entering the Australian market;**
 - ii. set standards to ensure products are designed to be durable, reused, repaired and recycled at their highest value; and**
 - iii. implement Right to Repair Legislation, including incentives, training and cost-effective insurance options.**
 - c. Australian and State Governments to take a collaborative approach to:**
 - i. identify and remove legislative barriers to enable more circular approaches;**
 - ii. streamline Government approvals processes and facilitate innovation;**
 - iii. embed circular procurement practices across Government; and**
 - iv. support and provide incentives for recovered materials infrastructure and market development for priority materials across Western Australia.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A new Advocacy Position on circular economy is proposed.
- To focus future advocacy, a draft Advocacy Position was developed for sector feedback, supported by a [Background Paper](#).
- The paper identified the potential that transitioning to a circular economy has to reduce cost of living pressures, maximise use of resources and reduce a range of environmental impacts associated with the manufacture, distribution and post consumption management of products.
- The Advocacy Position was endorsed by the Municipal Waste Advisory Council at its final meeting on 18 June 2026 and noted by the Environment, Planning and Waste Advisory Group at its 13 July 2026 meeting.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item aligns with WALGA's Strategic Pillars:

- **Influence:** Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government and lead policy development for the Local Government sector.
- **Support:** Anticipate, understand and respond to Member needs.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

A new policy position on circular economy is proposed:

1. *Local Government supports the principle of a circular economy and recognises its potential to:*
 - a. *maximise the value and use of resources through a products life cycle*
 - b. *minimise environmental and financial impacts associated with the manufacture, distribution and post consumption management of products.*
2. *Local Government calls on the:*
 - a. *State Government to undertake a detailed study to determine how Western Australia can move toward a circular economy.*
 - b. *Australian Government to:*
 - i. *establish and maintain a regulated product stewardship framework for products entering the Australian market*
 - ii. *set standards to ensure products are designed to be durable, reused, repaired and recycled at their highest value*
 - iii. *implement Right to Repair Legislation, including incentives, training and cost-effective insurance options.*
 - c. *Australian and State Governments to take a collaborative approach to:*
 - i. *identify and remove legislative barriers to enable more circular approaches*
 - ii. *streamline Government approvals processes and facilitate innovation*
 - iii. *embed circular procurement practices across Government*
 - iv. *support and provide incentives for recovered materials infrastructure and market development for priority materials across Western Australia.*

BACKGROUND

Circular economy is defined as 'an economic strategy that maintains the value of materials for as long as possible and ensures materials are used efficiently across all phases of their life cycle'. WALGA [submissions](#) on the review of the State Waste Strategy identified that an overall State Government position on a circular economy for Western Australia is needed, recommending that State Government, in consultation with Local Governments, develop a position and plan for a circular economy in Western Australia which includes consideration of costs, benefits and options.

WALGA's [submission to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Opportunities in the Circular Economy](#) further highlighted priority action areas to promote circularity. This included the important role of procurement, the need for quality assurance and market development for recovered materials, specific programs and incentives to shift consumer behaviours, the Right to Repair and a mandated product stewardship framework.

A defined circular economy position and plan is required to back up the vision and identify the role of each sector in achieving a circular economy, both nationally and in Western

Australia. There has been only limited discussion outside of the waste management context on what a circular economy is and its potential.

COMMENT

In April 2026, WALGA released the [Circular Economy Advocacy Position Background Paper](#). The Paper outlines that transitioning to a circular economy has the potential to reduce cost of living pressures, maximise use of resources and reduce a range of environmental impacts associated with the manufacture, distribution and post consumption management of products.

In drafting the draft Circular Economy Advocacy Position, WALGA drew on international, national and local circular economy policies and activities to identify the barriers and opportunities to move toward a circular economy in WA. The Advocacy Position outlines the actions needed from all levels of Government to change legislation and policies where required, put in place relevant incentives and lead by example.

Consultation on the Paper and draft Advocacy Position was carried out from 20 April to 15 May 2026. Responses were received from 10 Local Governments, five Metropolitan and five Regional. Of the submissions received, eight supported the Advocacy Position without amendments and two supported the Advocacy Position with minor suggested changes, which have been incorporated.

WALGA updated the Advocacy Position following feedback from the Municipal Waste Advisory Council at its 18 June 2026 meeting. The Advocacy Position was noted by the Environment, Planning and Waste Advisory Group at its 13 July 2026 meeting.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY STATE COUNCILLORS (UNDER SEPARATE COVER)

Items Under Separate Cover to State Council only.

9 ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS

9.1 INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORY GROUP REPORT

FOR NOTING

The Infrastructure Advisory Group includes the following subject areas:

- *Transport*
- *Infrastructure*
- *Road Safety*
- *Underground power*
- *Street lighting*

The Infrastructure Advisory Group has not met since the July 2026 State Council meeting.

The next Infrastructure Advisory Group meeting has been scheduled for 11 August 2026.

9.2 COMMUNITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP REPORT

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy

FOR NOTING

The Community and Emergency Management Advisory Group includes the following subject areas:

- *Aboriginal Affairs*
- *Access, Inclusion and Community Safety*
- *Regional and Public Health*
- *Recreational Activities and Children and Youth*
- *Disaster Risk Reduction, Resilience and Recovery*
- *Bushfire Prevention, Preparedness and Response*
- *Local Emergency Management Planning*

As a result of recent amendments to the State Council Corporate Governance Charter, the People and Place Policy Team has been renamed to the Community and Emergency Management Advisory Group. The Advisory Group's subject areas remain unchanged.

The Community and Emergency Management Advisory Group has not met since the July 2026 State Council meeting.

9.3 GOVERNANCE ADVISORY GROUP REPORT

By Kirsty Martin, Executive Manager Member Services

FOR NOTING

The Governance Advisory Group includes the following subject areas:

- *Governance (Local Government legislation)*
- *Local Government Reform/Regional Service Delivery*
- *Local Government Revenue*
- *Local Government Elections*
- *Employee Relations/Industrial Relations*
- *Training*

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting by the Governance Advisory Group. The Governance Advisory Group met on 22 July 2026.

1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION

Retirement of Positions Achieved by Reform

The Governance Advisory Group is currently responsible for oversight of approximately 100 Advocacy Positions. To ensure these positions remain relevant, effective and aligned with current priorities, the team is undertaking a comprehensive review of the Advocacy Positions Manual. The review aims to identify opportunities to streamline and strengthen existing positions, update those requiring amendment, and retire Positions that have been superseded. As part of the initial stage of this work, five Advocacy Positions within Section 2 (Governance and Organisational Services) of the Advocacy Positions Manual have been reviewed, with a recommendation that these positions be retired.

State Council Agenda [item 8.1](#) relates to this matter.

2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING

2026 Local Government Audit Experience Survey Results

For the past three years, WALGA has partnered with Local Government Professionals WA (LG Professionals) to conduct a survey examining Local Governments' annual audit experiences. Following LG Professionals' decision to cease its involvement in the survey, WALGA independently undertook the 2026 survey relating to the 2024/25 audit process. The survey retained a similar question set to previous years to enable comparison of results over time. It was distributed to the Chief Executive Officers of all 139 Local Governments on 12 May 2026 and remained open until 3 June 2026, receiving responses from 58 Local Governments.

State Council Agenda [item 10.2](#) relates to this matter.

3. GOVERNANCE ADVISORY GROUP MATTERS

Local Government Audit Functions Advocacy

The Governance Advisory Group received an update on the Audit Experience Survey recently undertaken by WALGA, together with a summary of advocacy activities and ongoing work relating to audit functions within Local Government

Items referred from Zones

The Advisory Group were provided with an update on matters referred from Zones, including the status of the items raised and the advocacy work currently being undertaken by WALGA in response to these issues.

Advocacy Position Review

The Group discussed the ongoing review of advocacy positions within the Governance and Organisational Services section of the Advocacy Positions Manual. The review aims to streamline and strengthen existing positions, with consideration to be given to the development of a workplan to guide this process.

9.4 ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND WASTE ADVISORY GROUP REPORT

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy

FOR NOTING

The Environment, Planning and Waste Advisory Group includes the following subject areas:

- *Climate change*
- *Native vegetation and biodiversity*
- *Biosecurity*
- *Water*
- *Sustainability*
- *Planning and building*
- *Waste*

As a result of amendments to the Corporate Governance Charter, the Environment Policy Team has been renamed the Environment, Planning and Waste Advisory Group. The Advisory Group's subject areas remain unchanged, except for the addition of waste-related matters as a result of the cessation of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council.

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the Environment, Planning and Waste Advisory Group at its meeting held on 13 July 2026.

1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION

The Advisory Group considered the Circular Economy Advocacy Position. State Council Agenda [item 8.2](#) relates to this matter.

2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING

The Advisory Group considered the WALGA submission on the National Environmental Standard for Data and Information (D&I), developed with reference to the Advocacy Position [5.2.1 Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations](#) and previous WALGA submissions on the independent review of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

State Council Agenda [item 10.7](#) relates to this matter.

3. ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND WASTE ADVISORY GROUP MATTERS

The Advisory Group considered the:

- Terms of Reference for Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.
- The State Government's Residential Design Codes (R-codes) Reform announcement.

9.5 MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL (MWAC) REPORT

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste

FOR NOTING

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC), at its final meeting held on 18 June 2026.

1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION

MWAC endorsed a new Circular Economy Advocacy Position for consideration by State Council.

State Council Agenda [item 8.2](#) relates to this matter.

2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING

MWAC endorsed a submission to the inquiry into the Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme for Packaging (No Time to Waste) Bill 2026.

State Council Agenda [item 10.8](#) relates to this matter.

3. MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MATTERS

MWAC considered:

- An update of the Better Practice Guideline for Charity Bin Management: To inform the review, WALGA undertook a survey that received 49 responses from both metropolitan and regional Local Governments. Following discussions with the Reducing Illegal Dumping (RID) Working Group, Charity Reuse Australia Working Group and WALGA's Governance Team, the Guideline has been updated to reflect current practices and requirements, while retaining the key principles that remain relevant.
- Update of the Model Process for Illegal Dumping: In 2019, WALGA developed a Model Process for Illegal Dumping in collaboration with the RID Working Group. The Model Process has been updated to be more streamlined, offering flexibility for Local Governments to either undertake investigations or prioritise the removal of illegally dumped material based on capacity.
- A submission to the [Inquiry](#) into the Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme for Packaging (no time to waste) Bill 2026: The Bill provides for the Government of the Commonwealth to establish a uniform national extended producer responsibility scheme for packaging. WALGA's submission to the Inquiry is based on the Product Stewardship Advocacy Position and previous submissions on packaging product stewardship. The submission identifies that the Objectives of the Bill align strongly with WALGA's advocacy on product stewardship and packaging reform.
- Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee Terms of Reference: Following the wind up the Partnership Agreement which establishes MWAC, effective 30 June 2026, a new Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee (the Committee) will be established for metropolitan and non-metropolitan Local Governments and Regional Council/Subsidiary representatives to provide input into WALGA's waste

policy work. MWAC discussed the proposed composition and role of the advisory committee and relevant State Council Advisory Group.

- Contribution of MWAC: WALGA CEO, Nick Sloan, and President, Mayor Mark Irwin, acknowledged and thanked MWAC for the important role it has played in waste policy and programs. They also reaffirmed that waste remains a key priority for WALGA, given its ongoing significance to Local Government.

10 MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

10.1 REPORT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT ROAD ASSETS AND EXPENDITURE 2024/25

By Max Bushell, Policy Manager, Transport and Roads

FOR NOTING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Report on Local Government Road Assets and Expenditure 2024/25 has been finalised.
- This Report provides information, statistics and trends on:
 - The length and types of roads and bridges managed by Local Governments;
 - Sources of funding and the use of funds in expanding, upgrading, renewing and maintaining roads, paths and bridges;
 - Actual expenditure relative to that needed to sustainably maintain the road network; and
 - Road safety performance on Local Government roads.
- The Report is intended to provide critical information to the Local Government sector on their assets and expenditure and also underpin advocacy for continued and increased Federal and State funding for Local Government roads. Information in the Report supports Councils to benchmark aspects of their own roads programs with similar or neighbouring areas.

ATTACHMENT

- [2024/25 Report on Local Government Road Assets and Expenditure](#)

BACKGROUND

The Report on Local Government Road Assets and Expenditure 2024/25 (the report) is produced annually by WALGA with assistance from the WA Local Government Grants Commission. At its core, the report provides information on the lengths and types of roads, paths and bridges and highlights trends in the data over the preceding five years. It also includes statistics and trends on the funding sources and amount of Local Government expenditure on roads, paths and bridges. Details are provided on the allocation of expenditure between expansion, upgrade, maintenance and renewal of the network at a regional level and for individual Local Governments. Trends in road safety performance on Local Governments roads from 2019 to 2023 are also provided. Information is provided at the Local Government, regional, and state levels to support comparison and benchmarking.

A critical output of the report is the analysis of the Local Government expenditure statistics to provide a comparison of road preservation performance, net preservation needs and expenditure effort. These comparisons provide insight into the adequacy of funding and the difference between road preservation needs and current expenditure on road preservation.

COMMENT

Local Government is responsible for 127,978 kilometres of roads with a replacement value of over \$42.6 billion, which makes up 87% of the State Road network (excluding Forestry and National Park roads). Of Local Government-maintained roads, 33% of these roads are

sealed with a bitumen surface, the rest being gravel or unformed roads. In 2024/25, the total expenditure on Local Government roads was \$1,188.8 million and 49% of this was funded by State and Federal Government grants. In the last five years, total road expenditure has increased by 26.2%.

Much of the Local Government road network is now approaching the end of its design life and an increasing portion of funding is being spent on maintenance and renewal (collectively termed preservation). In 2024/25 expenditure on preservation was \$836.1 million amounting to 70.3% of the total expenditure. This expenditure represents a 34.5% increase in the five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25.

An important objective of the report is to assess if road expenditure on preservation is keeping up with road preservation needs. This is determined by comparing actual annual expenditure on road preservation with the estimated amount needed to maintain the roads in their current condition in that year. The estimated cost of maintaining the Local Government road network in its current condition in 2024/25 was \$1,161.66 million and Local Governments spent \$836.15 million on preservation. There was therefore a shortfall of \$325.5 million. This is \$12.4 million less than 2023/24 but \$79.2 million more than 2020/21, which indicates that the average condition of the road network continues to deteriorate.

A further important objective is to assess the sustainability and capacity of Local Government to fund their road preservation requirements. For regional Local Governments, 66% of road expenditure is funded by State or Federal Government grants and for the Wheatbelt and Gascoyne regions, this figure rises to 80% and 89%, respectively. On average, Local Governments spend 19% of their revenue capacity on roads. This illustrates the dependence on State and Federal funding. Many regional Local Governments would have to spend almost their entire income on roads, if this was the only source of funding.

The statistics and analysis presented in the report provides evidence leading to the conclusion that current funding arrangements do not recognise the road needs of most Local Governments and underpins the argument for sustainable funding to maintain and improve the condition and functionality of the road network.

10.2 2026 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDIT EXPERIENCE SURVEY RESULTS

By Felicity Morris, Manager Governance and Procurement

FOR NOTING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- In 2023, 2024 and 2025, WALGA partnered with Local Government Professionals WA to survey the Local Government sector on experiences during the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) annual financial audit process.
- This year, LG Professionals decided to no longer partner in the survey.
- This year, WALGA conducted the survey, asking respondents about their experience of the 2024/25 audit process.
- Questions were largely the same as those in previous audit surveys which allows for direct comparison of results over time.
- The following issues have persisted since 2023 and remain a concern despite some improvements:
 - Additional workload on Local Government staff; and
 - Cost.
- Reported improvements in consistency of advice between contract auditors and the OAG suggest this is no longer a widely experienced issue.
- WALGA will continue to work with the OAG to improve the audit process in line with sector feedback, with a particular focus on those areas of concern that continue to be reported in the surveys.

ATTACHMENTS

- [2026 Audit Experience Survey Analysis](#)
- [Audit Experience Survey Results Comparison](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

WALGA's current Advocacy Position in relation to the Local Government audit process was updated in July 2024 and retained following the 2025 survey. The current survey results support the retention of this position.

2.2.2 Local Government Audit Process

WALGA advocate to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) to reform the audit process for Local Governments by seeking:

- 1. Audits of Local Governments are completed and reported on in a timely manner and that the processes, procedures and scope of audits are consistently applied.*
- 2. That the OAG review the requirements for pre-audit information with a view to reducing the need for additional information where possible;*
- 3. That the OAG review their costing formulae for Local Government audits and show constraint in audit cost increases;*
- 4. That the OAG provide a breakdown on the cost of the audit and justification for any variance to the estimate to the Local Government as part of the final billing process;*
- 5. That auditors be required to improve their communication and information management and avoid repeated requests for information that has already been provided or that is publicly available;*

6. *That Local Governments only be required to communicate with contract Auditors (unless the OAG is directly auditing the Local Government) and the onus be placed on the contract Auditors to confirm their advice with the OAG before instructing the Local Government; and*
7. *Seek an opportunity for Local Government to make representations in relation to any adverse findings prior to the publication of the report.*

BACKGROUND

The Office of the Auditor General (OAG) has been responsible for Local Government financial audits since the commencement of the *Local Government Amendment (Auditing) Act 2017*. Since this time, there have been a range of comments and criticisms of the audit experience from the Local Government sector.

For the past three years, WALGA partnered with Local Government Professionals WA (LG Professionals) to produce a survey of Local Governments' annual audit experience. LG Professionals has decided to no longer partner in the survey. WALGA conducted the survey for the 2024/25 audit process, asking similar questions to previous surveys to create a comparison over time.

The survey is designed to enable provision of consistent and constructive advice to the OAG. WALGA will advise the OAG of the results of the survey to support our ongoing advocacy.

COMMENT

The 2026 survey was distributed to all 139 Local Government CEOs on 12 May 2026 and closed on 3 June 2026. CEOs were encouraged to consider any comments or feedback from Council Members when completing the survey.

A total of 58 Local Governments (41.7%) responded, compared to 59 (42.5%) in 2025, 83 (58%) in 2024 and 91 (62%) in 2023. The downward trend in participation could be due to improvements in the OAG's conduct of the audit process, including the provision of on-line tools to assist the sector to prepare for the audit.

The survey was largely comprised of the same questions as previous years, with most framed as a statement asking respondents to answer in one of five ways:

1. Strongly disagree;
2. Disagree;
3. Neutral;
4. Agree; or
5. Strongly agree.

New questions were added to provide an opportunity for comment on two new online dashboards developed by the OAG.

Overall, the results and comments from the 2026 survey suggest the audit experience is improving. Comparison of results in the key issue areas identified in previous surveys (which has formed the basis for WALGA's advocacy efforts to the OAG) demonstrate improvements in most areas.

Additional workload on Local Government staff

In 2026, 50% of respondents reported that additional workload was generated for staff by the audit process beyond the tasks anticipated in the pre-audit preparation advice. This

level of concern has reduced from 68% reported in 2025, and 80% in 2023 and 2024. However, 50% still represents a substantial proportion of respondents and indicates that this remains a significant issue for the sector.

Cost

Comments indicate there continues to be frustration across the sector with the costs of the audit, particularly in relation to perceived inconsistencies and lack of transparent costing methodologies. Several respondents expressed frustration at the variations in costs for similar sized Councils. In addition, the survey responses indicate that some Local Governments continue to experience significant variations between the estimated and actual cost.

The OAG has developed an [information sheet](#) that gives Local Governments detailed information on the fee structure and how it is calculated. In addition, the OAG has published a [2026 Local Government Audit Fee Comparison dashboard](#). This interactive dashboard is intended to provide greater transparency around OAG audit fees, allowing Local Governments to compare current year fees and fee movements with other Local Governments. Over 67% of respondents have advised that they anticipate that it is likely they will use this tool, while noting that greater transparency in fee calculation is required. The OAG has indicated that they intend to maintain and improve the dashboard, including through insights into the drivers and context behind audit fees.

The publication of both proposed and actual costs across the sector will strengthen the evidence base for further advocacy on audit costs.

Inconsistent advice from contract Auditors and OAG

In 2026, 9% of respondents reported receiving inconsistent advice from contract Auditors versus advice from the OAG. This has reduced from 11% in 2025. In 2024, it was 6% and 20% in 2023. As concern with this issue has fluctuated over the period of the surveys, and consistency of advice is a fundamental expectation, WALGA will continue to advocate to the OAG on this issue.

CONCLUSION

The 2026 survey results did not indicate any new, previously unidentified issues with the audit process. Instead, there is continued improvement in most areas. WALGA will continue its advocacy efforts with the OAG to further improve the process for Local Governments, with particular focus on those areas of concern that continue to be reported in the surveys.

10.3 WALGA DISCUSSION PAPER – *REFORMING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS SCHEME TO SUPPORT BUSHFIRE CAPABILITY IN WA*

By Sam Kennedy, Senior Policy Advisor - Emergency Management

FOR NOTING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGs) funding gap has escalated sharply in recent years, exceeding \$40 million in the most recent round.
- Local Governments are increasingly meeting costs that the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) and LGGs were intended to fully fund, including essential items such as PPE, appliances, WHS-compliant facility upgrades, and communications equipment.
- WALGA prepared a *Discussion Paper Reforming the Local Government Grants Scheme to Support Bushfire Capability in WA*, which was submitted to the March 2026 Ministerial State Bushfire Advisory Council (SBAC) meeting, of which WALGA is a member.
- The discussion paper identifies immediate practical improvements and a reform pathway to address funding and administrative pressures on Local Governments.
- SBAC supported formal examination of the LGGs issues raised, with these recommendations conveyed to the Minister for Emergency Services via formal correspondence in April 2026.
- On 9 June 2026, the Minister for Emergency Services wrote to the Chair of SBAC confirming a review of the LGGs focusing on four key areas: the potential transition to capability-focused investment; embedding data-driven and transparent decision-making; supporting a consistent and strategically aligned allocation of funding across the State; and establishing robust and inclusive governance and oversight processes.
- The Minister's decision to initiate a review of the LGGs represents a significant advocacy outcome for WALGA.
- A Steering Committee will oversee the review and will include one independent member and two DFES Corporate Executive members. Additionally, an LGGs Working Group will be established with key stakeholders from across the State.
- DFES anticipates completion of the review within 12 months of establishment of the terms of reference.

ATTACHMENT

- [Discussion Paper Local Government Grants Scheme Reform - SBAC Meeting 5 March 2026](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This submission is relevant to and affirms WALGA's Emergency Management [Advocacy Positions](#):

- 8.3 Sustainable Grant Funding Model for Emergency Management
- 8.7 Emergency Services Levy
- 8.8 Local Government Grants Scheme

BACKGROUND

Western Australia is unique in that Local Governments have statutory responsibility for bushfire response. Local Governments support more than 550 Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades

and approximately 18,000 volunteers, providing the primary response capability across most of the State.

The Emergency Services Levy (ESL) was introduced in 2003 to establish a more equitable and sustainable funding model for emergency services, replacing fragmented arrangements that relied heavily on Local Government contributions and community fundraising. Through the Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGS), the ESL was intended to fund 100 per cent of the agreed operating and capital costs of both career and volunteer services.

Over time, the cost of maintaining contemporary bushfire capability has increased significantly due to rising fleet and infrastructure costs, evolving work health and safety requirements, and higher insurance costs. There have been no significant, sustained increases to LGGS funding since 2010–11. Further, LGGS capital funding is not indexed.

As a result, the gap between demonstrated funding need and available LGGS funding has widened substantially. In 2017–18, Local Governments' requests for building and equipment funding for their Volunteer Bushfire Brigade (VBFB) and SES units were largely met. By 2022–23, the shortfall had surged to \$20 million, and in the latest grant round, it exceeded \$40 million. Most LGGS applications are meritorious, with 75% meeting eligibility requirements in recent capital rounds.

The current funding model is also affected by broader structural issues, including limited transparency in allocation processes, outdated eligible and ineligible lists, insufficient visibility of baseline capability requirements, and burdensome administrative arrangements that can increase costs and delays.

Concerns relating to governance, equity and transparency have been identified previously by Economic Regulation Authority and Auditor General reviews and remain largely unresolved.

Recognising these challenges, WALGA's discussion paper outlines a reform pathway centred on:

- Establishing a minimum viability capability baseline: a defensible, evidence-based capability floor for appliances, facilities, equipment, PPE, and personnel support;
- Clarifying and separating LGGS funding streams into baseline entitlement funding, a strategic capital program, and a competitive innovation stream;
- Applying proportionate, risk-based administration including tiered acquittal thresholds, multi-year operating approvals, and greater recognition of Local Government financial audit frameworks; and
- Establishing transparent, partnered governance and secure dedicated investment.

In June 2026, the Minister for Emergency Services confirmed that DFES would undertake a review of the LGGS, incorporating many of the themes identified in WALGA's discussion paper.

COMMENT

The Minister's decision to initiate a review of the LGGS represents a significant advocacy outcome for WALGA, reflecting WALGA's long-standing policy position on sustainable emergency management funding and its March 2026 discussion paper to SBAC, both of which have been directly informed by consultation, sector surveys and extensive data analysis. WALGA will keep the Emergency Management and Community Advisory Group and State Council informed of the progress of the review.

10.4 COMMUNITY SPORTING AND RECREATION FACILITIES FUND AND CLUB NIGHT LIGHTS PROGRAM FUNDING REVIEW

By Rebecca Hicks, Policy Advisor Community

FOR NOTING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- In late 2025, the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport (CITS) paused funding rounds for the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) and Club Night Lights Program (CNLP), pending the outcomes of a review.
- WALGA has advocated strongly for meaningful sector consultation in the review, given the criticality of these funding streams for Local Government.
- In July 2026, CITS advised that the review is being conducted between July and November 2026, ahead of funding rounds opening in February 2027.
- WALGA is undertaking Local Government consultation on behalf of CITS, including a short survey and conducting targeted workshops.
- WALGA is also separately surveying Members to gather additional insights to inform a sector-wide response to the review and broader WALGA advocacy.

ATTACHMENTS

- [CSRFF Funding Pause - Letter to Minister Saffioti](#)
- [Minister Saffioti Response - CSRFF Funding Pause Response - 20 February 2026](#)
- [CSRFF Hansard Legislative Assembly - 6 May 2026](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

WALGA's position on the CSRFF and CNLP is captured in [Advocacy Position 3.7 Community Infrastructure](#):

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:*
 - i. *Provide \$60 million per annum for the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund, separate to the PlayOn WA 2030 Funding commitments.*
 - ii. *Provide \$60 million per annum for community arts and cultural infrastructure,*
 - iii. *Provide funding for retrofitting accessible design features to community infrastructure,*
 - iv. *Align all community infrastructure funding with existing State co-contribution of at least two-thirds.*

BACKGROUND

The Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) is a well-established State Government funding program providing financial assistance to Local Governments and community groups to develop infrastructure for sport and recreation. The Club Night Lights Program (CNLP) provides financial assistance for sports floodlighting infrastructure. Both programs are well utilised by the sector with funding allocations oversubscribed in the past five years.

Increasing CSRFF funding is an existing priority for WALGA, included in the WALGA [2026-27 State Budget Submission](#) and [State Election priorities](#), aligned to Advocacy Position 3.7 endorsed by State Council in September 2025. The 2026-27 State Budget maintained the existing level of investment, \$85.2 million across the two programs over four years.

[PlayOn WA](#) is an overarching initiative announced in March 2025 to guide State Government investment in community sport and recreation infrastructure. The initiative aims to deliver 2,030 community sport and recreation infrastructure items by 2030 in partnership with Local Governments, clubs and community groups.

In November 2025, WALGA became aware via Members that advertised funding rounds for CSRFF and CNLP had not opened. CITS advised that funding rounds for 2025-26 had been paused while a review of the programs was undertaken.

WALGA has advocated strongly for meaningful sector consultation in the review as well as further information on the impact on current and future rounds. WALGA's letter to the Minister for Sport and Recreation, the Hon Rita Saffioti, the Minister's response and a Hansard transcript on the matter are attached.

In June 2026, the CITS website was updated, stating that a review is being conducted on the CSRFF and CNLP between July and November 2026. The review intends to bolster the effectiveness of the funding programs. Updated guidelines are scheduled to be released by the end of the year, ahead of funding rounds opening in February 2027.

On 6 July 2026, WALGA met with the Hon Samantha Rowe MLC, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation and review lead, who requested that WALGA lead Local Government consultation on behalf of CITS. WALGA has shared the [CITS survey](#) with Members and held targeted workshops in mid-August.

A separate [WALGA survey](#) has also been undertaken to gather further insights to inform WALGA's sector-wide response to the review and broader advocacy. The engagement was complemented by an in-depth analysis of five years of CSRFF and CNLP funding data, providing both quantitative and qualitative insights to support the review.

COMMENT

WALGA welcomes the State Government consulting with Local Government on the review of the CSRFF and CNLP programs. These programs play a critical role in enabling Local Governments to plan, deliver and maintain facilities that respond to locally identified community needs. The review presents an opportunity to influence the direction of State Government investment in community sport and recreation infrastructure.

WALGA's response to CITS, due at the end of August, will include a thematic analysis of the responses to the CITS survey, and an overarching and broader WALGA response informed by the WALGA survey, past funding analysis and broader advocacy context.

WALGA will continue to engage with CITS on the review, including recommending ongoing engagement with Local Governments on the anticipated updated program guidelines and reopening of funding rounds in February 2027. The sector consultation and data analysis undertaken by WALGA will inform ongoing advocacy relating to CSRFF, CNLP and community infrastructure investment.

10.5 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS (LEMA) IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT

By Catherine Feeney, LEMA Implementation Project Officer

FOR NOTING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Program was initiated by the Local Government sector and supported by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) to deliver a more contemporary and scalable approach to local emergency management.
- Phase 1 of the Program, delivered through a partnership between WALGA and DFES, included extensive Local Government engagement and pilot testing of revised LEMA guidance and templates, and was completed in April 2026.
- In May 2026, WALGA was successful in securing SEMC endorsement and funding for a 16-month Local Government LEMA implementation support program.
- The program will be delivered by WALGA from July 2026 to September 2027 and includes webinars, LEMA masterclasses, peer support, coaching, training updates and practical implementation resources. DFES is delivering complementary activities, including updated guidance and templates, consultation on the LEMA Development Model, and proposed policy amendments.
- The implementation program supports practical, scalable and appropriately supported Local Emergency Management Arrangements reflecting the diverse risks, capacities and operating environments of WA Local Governments.

ATTACHMENT

- [Local Emergency Management Improvement Program Pilot Final Report \(April 2026\)](#)
- [Local Emergency Management Arrangements Improvement Program](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This item is relevant to and supports WALGA's Emergency Management [Advocacy Positions](#):

- 8.2 State Emergency Management Framework
- 8.11 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA)

BACKGROUND

Under the *Emergency Management Act 2005*, all Local Governments are required to maintain Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA). In 2022, WALGA consulted with 100 Local Governments and identified broad support for improvements to the LEMA framework, including clearer guidance, reduced administrative burden, stronger capability support, and a more scalable approach that reflects the diverse operating environments across Western Australia. These findings informed the LEMA Improvement Plan, which was endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) in August 2023.

Phase 1 of the LEMA Improvement Program was delivered through a partnership between WALGA and DFES, with extensive Local Government involvement. The project resulted in the development of a [Local Government EM Knowledge Hub](#), a LEMA Development Model, and revised guidance and templates designed to provide a more practical and scalable approach to developing and maintaining LEMA.

In 2025, SEMC approved State Level Project funding to deliver a 16-month Local Government LEMA implementation support program from July 2026 to September 2027. Delivered by WALGA, the program will support Local Governments to implement the updated LEMA framework through a range of activities, including webinars, masterclasses, peer support, targeted coaching, training updates and practical implementation resources. WALGA acknowledges the funding contribution of the Australian Government and the support of SEMC. WALGA also acknowledges the valuable contribution of Local Governments throughout the LEMA Improvement Program.

DFES is progressing complementary implementation activities, including the release of new LEMA templates and guidance (expected in August), publication of a State Emergency Management Policy Communique clarifying minimum LEMA requirements, sector-wide consultation on the LEMA Development Model, and development of proposed amendments to the State Emergency Management Framework informed by stakeholder feedback.

COMMENT

The LEMA Implementation Project represents the next stage of WALGA's support for more practical, scalable and appropriately supported Local Emergency Management Arrangements. WALGA's 16-month Implementation program has been shaped by extensive Local Government feedback, which highlighted the need for clear guidance, capability development, practical support, and ongoing refinement of tools and resources.

All Local Governments that are due for their LEMA review are strongly encouraged to participate in a LEMA Masterclass. Further information is available on the [WALGA Local Emergency Management Arrangements Improvement Program webpage](#).

10.6 H5 BIRD FLU UPDATE

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste and Rachel Armstrong, Policy Manager, Emergency Management

FOR NOTING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- H5 Bird Flu was first detected in Australia on 20 June 2026 in a brown skua on the south coast in the Cape le Grand area, east of Esperance. Since that time there have been further cases in Western Australia, South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland.
- At the time of writing, detections are predominantly in vagrant migratory birds, with no detections in poultry and no evidence of spread to local wildlife. However, the situation is at an early stage and could escalate quickly.
- The risk to human health from H5 Bird Flu is assessed as low, but Local Governments require clear guidance on work health and safety, PPE, reporting protocols, communications and response arrangements.
- WALGA is supporting member preparedness, coordinating sector communications, participating in State-level incident arrangements, and escalating Local Government issues for clarification and resolution.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

WALGA's work on this matter aligns with [Advocacy Position 4.4 Post-Border Biosecurity](#) and a range of Emergency Management Positions.

BACKGROUND

H5 2.3.4.4b (H5 Bird Flu) is a high pathogenic avian influenza strain that emerged in 2020 and spread rapidly internationally, with significant impacts on poultry, wild birds and some mammal populations overseas.

H5 Bird Flu was first detected in Australia on 20 June 2026 in a brown skua on the south coast in the Cape le Grand area, east of Esperance. Since that time there have been further cases in Western Australia, South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland. At the time of writing, detections are predominantly in vagrant migratory birds, with no detections in poultry and no evidence of spread to local wildlife. However, the situation is at an early stage and may evolve quickly. The risk to human health is assessed as low, but Local Governments require clear guidance on work health and safety, PPE, reporting protocols, communications and response arrangements.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is the Hazard Management Agency for avian influenza and is leading the WA response. The Federal Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) is leading national coordination. The WA Incident Management Team includes key agencies such as DPIRD, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, the Department of Health and WALGA.

COMMENT

WALGA has been engaged in H5 Bird Flu preparedness since 2024, including participation in the Biosecurity Senior Officer Group HPAI working group and establishment of an internal H5 Bird Flu response group. WALGA is participating in State-level response arrangements, including the Operational Area Support Group and Incident Management Team. This provides a direct line into the response and an opportunity to raise Local Government issues with DPIRD and seek resolution.

Since the detection of H5 Bird Flu WALGA has hosted several very well attended webinars: on 30 June 2026, a general [webinar](#) on key issues with presentations by DPIRD, DBCA and Department of Health (440 registered) and on 24 July 2026 a waste management focused [webinar](#) with presentations by DPIRD and Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (175 registered).

WALGA's CEO requested and received nominated H5 Bird Flu contacts from each Local Government and WALGA has been providing updated materials and information to the contacts to ensure they have the relevant information to support the community. Through WALGA's Communications, Community, Emergency Management, Waste and Environment Networks information is being shared regularly. WALGA is also supporting the sector by distributing DPIRD generated H5 Bird Flu signs to Local Governments on request.

Further updates will be provided to State Council as the response continues.

10.7 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARD – DATE AND INFORMATION

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste

FOR NOTING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Australian Government is developing five new National Environmental Standards as part of reforms to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act):
 - [Matters of National Environmental Significance](#) (consultation closed 29 May, submission endorsed by [Flying Minute](#));
 - [Environmental Offsets](#) (consultation closed 9 June, advice to ALGA);
 - [Community engagement](#) (consultation closed 7 July, advice to ALGA);
 - [Data and Information](#) (D&I) (consultation closed 7 July); and
 - First Nations engagement (yet to be released).
- A submission on the D&I Standard has been developed with reference to the Advocacy Position [5.2.1 Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations](#) and previous WALGA submissions on the independent review of the EPBC Act.
- The D&I Standard sets out the data and information requirements to underpin timely, evidenced based and well informed decision making, improve data exchange and use of information and build trust through transparency and accountability.
- The Environment, Planning and Waste Advisory Group considered the submission out of session to meet the submission deadline of 7 July 2026 and noted the final submission at its meeting on 13 July 2026.

ATTACHMENT

- [WALGA Submission - Data and Information Standard](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This submission aligns with WALGA's current Advocacy Position [5.2.1 Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations](#) and previous WALGA submissions on the independent review of the EPBC Act.

BACKGROUND

The EPBC Act is Australia's primary environmental legislation, administered by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). It mandates the requirement for environmental impact assessment and approval for any action that is likely to have a significant impact on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES). These include threatened species and ecological communities, wetlands of international importance and heritage sites.

The National Environmental Standards are statutory instruments that set legally enforceable outcomes. The National Environmental Standards include:

- [Matters of National Environmental Significance](#) (consultation closed 29 May, submission endorsed by State Council via [Flying Minute](#));
- [Environmental Offsets](#) (consultation closed 9 June, advice to ALGA);
- [Community engagement](#) (consultation closed 7 July, advice to ALGA);
- [Data and Information](#) (D&I) (consultation closed 7 July); and
- First Nations engagement (yet to be released).

COMMENT

WALGA's submission provides general support for the D&I Standard. Key recommendations in the submission focus on:

- Requirements for proponents to consider Local Government data sets and use contemporary information.
- Improved interoperability of data platforms, requirements for data sharing and increased data accessibility on open spatial mapping platforms.
- Where possible, aligning the Standard with indigenous data sovereignty and governance principles.
- Providing guidance on how bioregional plans are to be designed and developed, including adequate and appropriate data and information.
- Investment in targeted biodiversity data collection.

The Environment, Planning and Waste Advisory Group considered the submission out of session to enable submission by the 7 July 2026 deadline and noted it at its meeting on 13 July 2026.

10.8 SUBMISSION ON THE EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY SCHEME FOR PACKAGING BILL 2026

By Conor Macgill, Senior Policy Advisor, Waste

FOR NOTING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- On 14 May 2026, the Senate referred the Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme for Packaging (No Time to Waste) Bill 2026 to the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee for [inquiry](#) and report.
- The Bill provides for the Government of the Commonwealth to establish a uniform national extended producer responsibility scheme for packaging.
- WALGA's submission to the Inquiry is based on the Product Stewardship Advocacy Position and previous submissions on packaging product stewardship.
- The objectives of the Bill align strongly with WALGA's advocacy on product stewardship and packaging reform.
- The submission was endorsed by the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) at its meeting on 18 June 2026.

ATTACHMENT

- [WALGA Submission Packaging EPR Inquiry June 2026](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The submission aligns with the [Advocacy Position 7.15 Product Stewardship](#).

BACKGROUND

On 14 May 2026, the Senate referred the Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme for Packaging (No Time to Waste) Bill 2026 to the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee for [inquiry](#) and report by 6 August 2026. The Committee invited submissions by 15 June 2026. WALGA requested and was granted an extension to allow MWAC to consider the WALGA submission at its 18 June 2026 meeting.

The Bill covers establishment of an Act to provide for the Government of the Commonwealth to establish a uniform national extended producer responsibility scheme for packaging, with the following objectives:

1. To ensure responsible persons of packaging have responsibility for the management of their packaging over the entire life cycle of their packaging.
2. To ensure reductions in the use of packaging and virgin plastic.
3. To ensure materials and additives that impede recycling are, where appropriate, prohibited in, or phased out of, the manufacture of packaging.
4. To ensure packaging is manufactured in accordance with best-practice standards relating to the eco-design of the packaging.
5. To increase resource recovery and recycling rates and support the growth of the domestic Australian recycling industry, including by ensuring the following minimum targets in relation to packaging made, used or sold in Australia are met by 2030:
 - a. All packaging (whether or not plastic) must be reusable, recyclable or compostable;
 - b. 70% of all plastic packaging must be recycled or composted;

- c. All packaging (whether or not plastic) must include at least 50% recycled content, including at least 30% Australian recycled content; and
 - d. All problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic packaging must be phased out.
- 6. To ensure the labelling of packaged products include clear and accurate information about the environmental impacts and correct disposal of the packaging of the products.
- 7. To provide financial incentives for responsible persons of packaging to reduce packaging, and improve the eco-design of their packaging, such as by requiring the responsible persons to pay eco-modulated fees calculated on the basis of the recyclability or manufactured quantity of their packaging.
- 8. To support ongoing consumer education and awareness of matters related to the scheme.

COMMENT

The objectives of the Bill align strongly with WALGA's advocacy on packaging reform. The WALGA submission references the [7.15 Product Stewardship Advocacy Position](#) and previous submissions on packing product stewardship. The Bill aligns with the waste hierarchy, with waste avoidance as the highest priority and aiming for all packaging to be reuseable, recyclable or compostable.

In addition to improving recovery rates for recycling, the submission highlights the importance of removing chemicals of concern from materials which affect multiple waste streams, with a recommendation to include mention of any materials or additives which impede composting through contact with food to be prohibited in, or phased out of, the manufacture of packaging.

MWAC considered and endorsed the submission at its meeting on 18 June 2026.

10.9 FLYING MINUTES ENDORSED BY STATE COUNCIL

FOR NOTING

The following Flying Minutes have been endorsed by State Council since the July 2026 meeting:

- WALGA Submission on the National Biosecurity Reform Agenda; and
- Proposal to Declare Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides as Restricted Chemical Products.

The full Flying Minutes are available on the [WALGA website](#).

11 ORGANISATION REPORTS

11.1 KEY ACTIVITY REPORTS

11.1.1 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, ADVOCACY PORTFOLIO

By Rachel Horton, Executive Manager Advocacy

FOR NOTING

The Advocacy Portfolio comprises the following work units:

- *Association Governance*
- *Marketing*
- *Media & Communications*
- *Government Relations*
- *Events*

The following outlines the activities of the Advocacy Portfolio since the July 2026 State Council meeting.

1. ASSOCIATION GOVERNANCE

Corporate Governance Charter Review and Update

Required under the WALGA Constitution, the Corporate Governance Charter defines the roles and responsibilities of key positions within the Association and outlines State Council's governance and administrative processes. A detailed review process began towards the end of 2025 to ensure the Charter remains contemporary and fit for purpose. At the July 2026 meeting, State Council endorsed a number of updates to the Charter which now provides a clearer and more concise framework, with a streamlined structure, plain language, and the removal of unnecessary duplication.

2. MARKETING

RoadWise Brand Refresh

In June 2026, the RoadWise brand was refreshed to modernise and align with the WALGA brand. The standalone website was also successfully integrated into the WALGA website, delivering improved functionality and a better, more cohesive user experience. The new graphic devices emphasise road safety and colour palette reflect the transition from unsealed to sealed roads.



Campaigns

Marketing have run a number of sector related, training and event campaigns throughout the reporting period. Training campaigns are driving an average of 2,300 visitors to training website pages a month and maintained a momentum of course applications.

Reporting period highlights

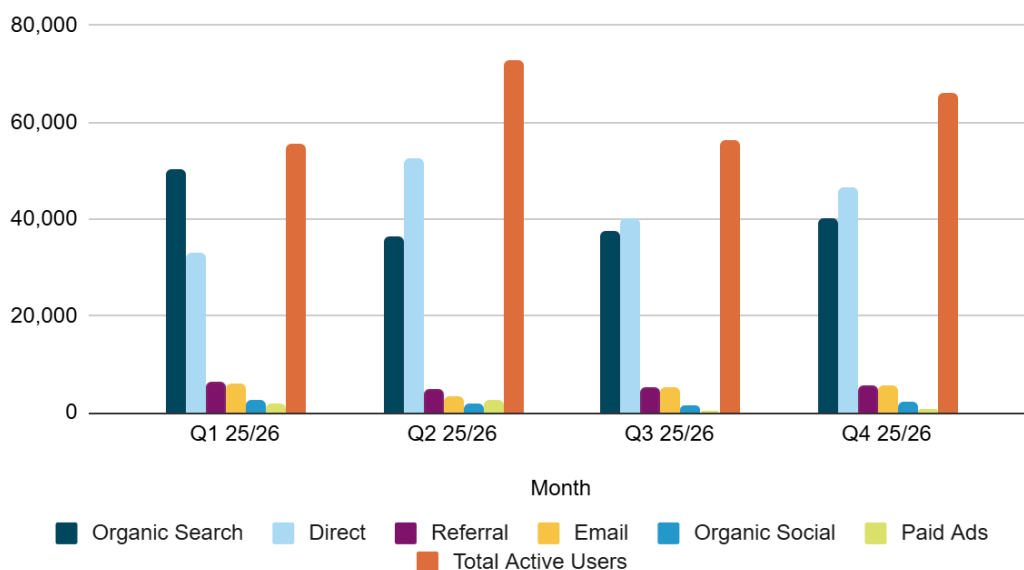
- Cert III | July 2026 Intake - active users increased by 81% and resulted in the largest intake since the program began.
- Future Leaders Scholarship LGA50120 Diploma of Local Government - 207 sessions (compared to 122 for the Jacqui Dodd Scholarship in 2025) and 8 nominations).
- Google Ads campaign - 8.51% CTR in June and generated nine applications.
- DWER Partnership – Waste Safe Battery Disposal Campaign - reached 597,209 unique Meta accounts and generated over 48,000 clicks to the disposal webpage.

WALGA Website Q4 25/26 data (1 April to 30 June 2026).

Overall, traffic and active users exceeded Q3 and last year's data.

- Compared to Q3 25/26, sessions increased by 7% and active users by 14%.
- Compared to Q4 24/25, sessions increased by 18% and active users by 40%.

Quarterly Web Traffic by Source



3. COMMUNICATIONS

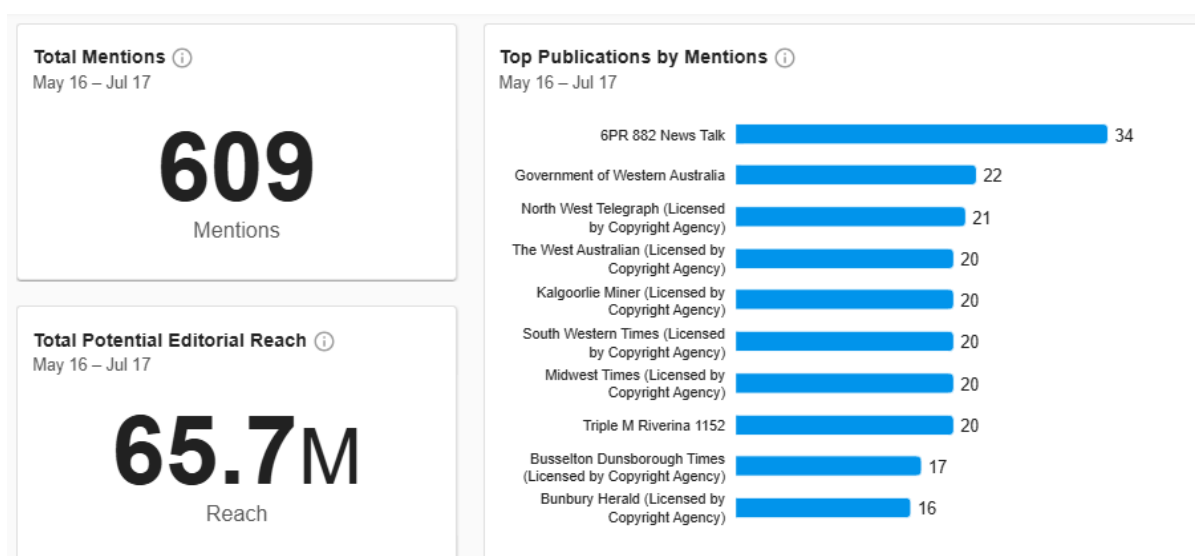
Multiple internal and external communications were prepared throughout the reporting period between Saturday 21 March and Friday, 15 May (56 Days) including:

- Eight LG Direct weekly newsletters distributed to more than 5,000 Elected Members and Local Government Officers.
- Three WALGA Media Releases
- WALGA's 2026-27 State and Federal Budget Analysis
- Western Councillor Magazine
- Local Government Directory.

MEDIA

There were 609 mentions of WALGA and the WALGA President between Saturday, 16 May to Friday, 17 July (63 Days). This is a 13% decrease from 697 in the previous reporting period (56 days).

The majority of mentions were from 6PR, North West Telegraph and The West Australian.



Earned Media:

WALGA has received 29 requests for comment across print, radio, television and online media, in comparison to 25 during the last reporting period. Topics included rates, Local Government budgets, WALGA's Local Government Awards, roads, and planning matters.

- 20 x Print Media
- 6 x TV
- 3 x Radio

Media Highlight – Local Government Awards:

After the 2026 Local Government Awards in June, WALGA produced a Media Release and image library that was sent to Local Government Communications Team and Media outlets across Western Australia. This resulted in a high level of exposure for the event, with many stories run by Local Governments and in community newspapers, congratulating recipients from their area.

To illustrate the scale of stories across media outlets, the coverage is listed below:

- [Bunbury Herald: Council stalwarts win awards](#)
- [Kalgoorlie Miner: City servants in honours list](#)
- [Canning Examiner: top gongs for local councillors in awards](#)
- [Albany extra: Shire stalwarts earn awards](#)
- [Midwest Times: Mid West shire president recognised with local government's top honour](#)
- [Manjimup-Bridgetown Times: Ben comes up roses for local government work](#)
- [Bunbury Herald:Local Government officials from Dardanup and Capel shires recognised at State awards](#)
- [Stalwarts from the Shires of Dumbleyung and Katanning earn honours at the 2026 WA Local Government Awards](#)
- [Long-serving councillor and city director recognised at WALGA LG Awards](#)
- [Mundaring deputy president receives WALGA merit award](#)
- [Improved Marine Drive lookout earns Albany City Council recognition for its accessibility at WALGA awards](#)

Top media mentions by reach:

- Polyphagous shot-hole borer – 5.5 million
- Planning – 1.45 million
- Local Government Awards – 1 million

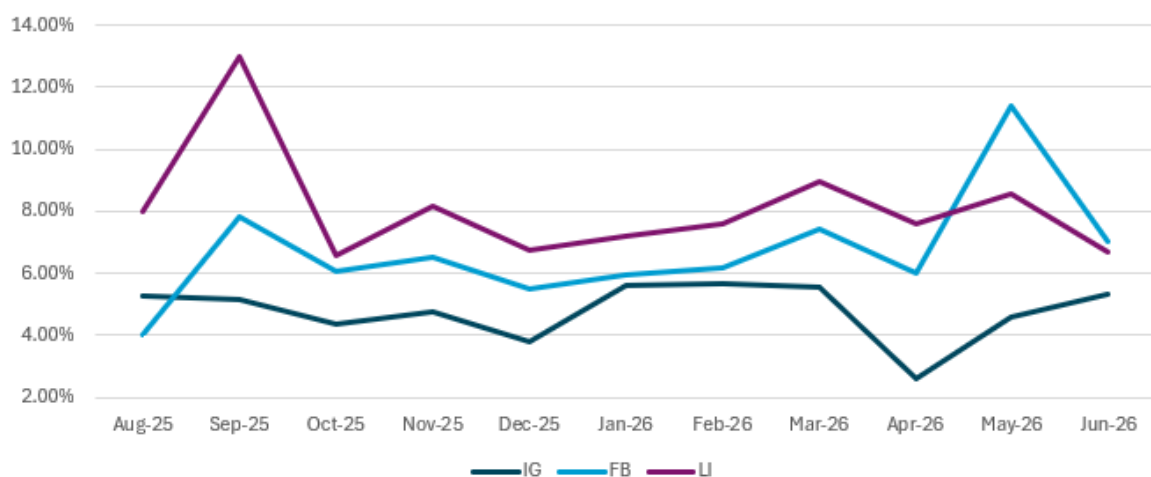
Media Releases:

WALGA released three proactive media statements during the reporting period.

- [WALGA President Mark Irwin honours in King's Birthday 2026 Honours List – 8 June 2026](#)
- [A celebration of excellence at WALGA's 2026 Local Government Awards – 15 June 2026](#)
- [WALGA supports delivery of Community Emergency Services Manager commitment – 26 June 2026](#)

Social Media:

Social Media Engagement %



The high level of promotion around the awards generated positive results across all social media channels.

- **LinkedIn:** 1,767 post reactions (compared to 997 in the previous reporting period, an increase of 77%).
- **Facebook:** 8% average post engagement rate (compared to 6% in the previous reporting period, an increase of 33%).
- **LinkedIn:** 10,331 post reach (compared to 5,927 in the previous reporting period, an increase of 74%).

4. GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Engagement with key decision makers has continued, with meetings held with a number of Ministers in recent months. Key amongst these include the Premier, Deputy Premier, Minister for Local Government and several Western Australian Members of Federal Parliament. WALGA also hosted Minister Beazley's most recent Labor Business Roundtable luncheon.

5. EVENTS

Three key sector events were delivered throughout the May to July period, continuing to provide valuable professional development, networking and sector engagement opportunities for Local Governments across Western Australia. WALGA also attended the ALGA National General Assembly, hosting a booth for Member networking in the exhibition and a networking event on the opening night.

Events hosted:

- Economic Case Studies Launch - 11 May
- Local Government Emergency Management Forum - 26 May
- WALGA Local Government Awards - 12 June
- ALGA WA Delegate Sundowner - 23 - 25 June
- WALGA People and Culture Seminar - 3 July
- HIA / Local Government Housing Roundtable - 27 July
- Labour Business Roundtable - 6 August 2026

Upcoming Events

- WALGA Local Government Convention - 16 - 18 September
- Showcase in Pixels - 19 November 2026
- WALGA Wrap - 10 December 2026

2026 Local Government Convention - 16 - 18 September

Planning for the 2026 Local Government Convention is well underway, with the program launched, all exhibition booths sold and 50% of the target delegate registrations. The strong exhibitor response reflects continued demand from suppliers and industry partners to connect with Local Government representatives and showcase products, services and innovations for the sector.

This year's theme, *'Tomorrow's World'* reflects the rapidly changing environment facing Local Governments across Western Australia. From emerging technologies and shifting community expectations to economic pressures and global uncertainty, WALGA knows the challenges and opportunities facing the sector are evolving faster than ever before. The

theme recognises that preparing for tomorrow's world requires adaptability and forward-thinking leadership. It means embracing change, exploring new ideas and building the capability to respond to the increasingly complex and diverse issues shaping Local Government across Western Australia.

The program (*'Your Priorities, Your Program'*) has also been developed with three streams of concurrent sessions to maximise choice and relevance for the unique challenges, opportunities and priorities that each Local Government faces.

11.1.2 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO

By Suzanne Butler, A/Executive Manager Infrastructure

FOR NOTING

The Infrastructure Portfolio comprises the following work units:

- *Roads*
- *Road Funding*
- *Transport*
- *Asset Management*
- *Utilities*
- *Road Safety*

The following outlines the activities of the Infrastructure Portfolio since the July 2026 State Council meeting.

1. ROADS

Local Government Transport and Roads Research and Innovation Program (LGTRRIP)

WALGA and the National Transport Research Organisation (NTRO) have convened a series of workshops with Local Government and industry to develop the next pipeline of projects. A shortlist is being developed and WALGA will convene an operations team with Local Government representation to prioritise the list. A new LGTRRIP website will be launched in August.

Guidelines and Specifications for Residential Crossovers

The review of WALGA's Residential Crossover Guidelines and Specifications is nearing completion and is currently in the final stage. The updated document incorporates revised references to external standards, guidelines and technical documents to ensure all cited information is current and relevant. Feedback received from Local Governments has also been incorporated to improve the clarity, usability and overall content of the guidelines.

Heavy Vehicle Access on Local Roads

In November 2025, Main Roads changed the RAV network access conditions (CA07) from an approval to a notification process. Most Local Governments and WALGA do not support this change. A working group of Local Government representatives met in March to consider alternatives, and a process was tentatively agreed. The group is waiting on a formal proposal from Main Roads before further engagement with Local Governments.

2. ROAD FUNDING

State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement

The current Agreement expires in June 2028 and WALGA has initiated discussions to inform the process towards the drafting and signing of a new Agreement.

Regional Road Safety Program

Program delivery is continuing with the next steering group meeting proposed for August. There was no Federal co-funding for the program included in the 2026/27 budget. Engagement with stakeholders and government to secure on-going and expanded support for this work is continuing.

Multi-Criteria Assessment (MCA) Model Revisions

The WALGA Infrastructure team is continuing to work with Regional Road Groups to update their MCA methodologies that are used to prioritise projects for Road Project Grant funding. The updates are required to reflect changes in the State Road Funds to Local Government Procedures. Most of the Regional Road Groups have now finalised their revisions and WALGA is working with the remaining groups of the Wheatbelt, Pilbara and Goldfields.

3. TRANSPORT

Active Transport and Micromobility Advocacy Plan

The Active Transport and Micromobility Advocacy Plan continues to progress. Feedback from the Infrastructure Advisory Group has informed the categorisation of priority actions, with implementation now underway for several initiatives. Work is continuing to progress on the identified advocacy actions.

4. ASSET MANAGEMENT

Road Assets and Expenditure Report Project

Modernisation of data entry, data management and output presentation of the Road Assets and Expenditure Report is nearing completion. User testing for the data entry component has been completed, and the modernised reporting interface will go live for the 2025/26 reporting phase starting in September 2026.

Review of the WALGA Road Visual Condition Assessment Manual

The final version of the [WALGA Road Visual Condition Manual](#) has been published. The revision necessitates changes to the RAMM software package which are progressing. A "Go Live" date is scheduled for 1 September 2026, and an instructional webinar will be delivered in advance.

Western Power

The State Budget released in May makes it clear that the Government has prioritised new housing developments and slowed delivery of the underground power program. This is arguably a response to limited contractor and internal delivery capacity, rather than funding. This will delay commencement of underground power projects that were intended to be undertaken over the coming five years. Western Power has communicated with affected Local Governments.

WALGA will be seeking to ensure that the viability of these projects is not significantly compromised by new Western Power investment in the overhead network in these areas.

WALGA is continuing to advocate that Western Power progress consultation with Local Governments regarding a streetlight asset management strategy.

ERA Framework and Approach

WALGA reviewed the draft Framework and Approach for Access Arrangement 6 published by the Economic Regulation Authority (ERA). Feedback concerning issues with Western Power services that could potentially be addressed through the Access Arrangement continue to be sought from Local Governments. In the interim period, WALGA met with Western Power to discuss WALGA's submission to the Framework and Approach Discussion Paper consultation.

Telecommunications

Some progress was made with Telstra, the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development and other stakeholders to define an operational model and agreements that would enable timely deployment of backup generators to support telecommunications services during power failures. Critical liability matters still need to be resolved.

WALGA provided a submission to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee Inquiry into the Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation) Bill 2025. This submission supported WALGA's Advocacy Positions, highlighting that the proposed legislation needs to explicitly ensure that 000 services are universally accessible, that very high reliability and resilience is achieved and services are affordable. The Committee recommended that the Senate passes the Bill without amendment, although there were dissenting views put forward.

5. ROAD SAFETY

Road Safety Council

The Road Safety Council Communiques can be viewed at [Road Safety Council Meeting Communiques](#).

11.1.3 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, MEMBER SERVICES PORTFOLIO

By Kirsty Martin, Executive Manager Member Services

FOR NOTING

The Member Services Portfolio comprises the following work units:

- *Commercial Contract Services*
- *Commercial Management*
- *Employee Relations*
- *Governance and Procurement*
- *Training*
- *Commercial Development*

The following outlines the activities of the Member Services Portfolio since the July 2026 State Council meeting.

1. COMMERCIAL

Following an extensive legal review, WALGA has updated its suite of Member Conditions for the Preferred Supplier Program (PSP). The contract model provides comprehensive contractual protection for Members through their use of the PSP, inclusive of specialist terms for ICT, waste, temporary labour, consultants, minor works, construction, and goods and services.

For the financial year ending June 2026, 375 new suppliers were added to the PSP. Further to this, more than 100 new suppliers have been added to the PSP in the past two months, with a further tender of around the same number currently under evaluation.

The WALGA Sustainable Energy Project is approaching the halfway point of its current three-year term. A procurement process for the next term of contract has been initiated with a public ETI (Early Tender Involvement) process open in the market until mid-September 2026. The first year of the project (April 2025 to March 2026) delivered 49 WALGA Members 31,200 mWH of renewable energy, 11,500 tonnes (tCOR-e) of carbon offsets, and an estimated \$1.3 million dollar spend reduction in comparison to the R3 business tariff benchmark.

2. EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

WALGA ER continues to represent the sector in the following applications in the WA Industrial Relations Commission (WAIRC) and Fair Work Commission (FWC), including:

Road Transport Contractual Chain Order – Fuel Cost Recovery – 2026 (MS2026/1)

The FWC's Road Transport Contractual Chain Order (RTCCO) commenced on 21 April 2026 and introduced mandatory fuel cost recovery obligations across road transport contractual chains.

The RTCCO requires Local Governments in road transport contractual chains to:

1. Make fortnightly adjustments to payments for road transport work to ensure recovery of increased fuel costs; and
2. Take reasonable steps to ensure compliance across the contractual chain, including that other parties adjust their rates accordingly.

The RTCCO was subject to a review by the FWC after the first month of operation and then every three months thereafter. As the weekly national average diesel gate price fell below \$2.00 per litre on 7 June 2026, the mandatory fuel cost recovery obligations under clause 4 of the Order are no longer active.

In their [Statement](#) on 7 July 2026, the FWC has extended their review of the Order to consider whether there are emergency circumstances remaining to vary the Order or whether it is appropriate to revoke the Order. The Commission has listed the matter for report back and case management at 10:00am (AEST) on 26 August 2026.

WALGA will provide updates to the sector as further information is available.

Applications CICS 5, 8 and 9 of 2023 - Union demarcation dispute and associated applications

CICS 5, 8 and 9 of 2023 is an application by the Western Australian Municipal, Administrative, Clerical and Services Union of Employees (WASU), for coverage of Local Government employees to the exclusion of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union of Workers (CFMEUW) (the Demarcation claim).

The Local Government, Racing and Cemeteries Employees Union (LGRCEU) and WALGA are intervenors.

The Demarcation claim was heard by the WAIRC, sitting as the Commission in Court Session (CICS), over 41 days in July and October of 2024 and October and November 2025. The CICS has reserved its decision in the Demarcation claim. Given the length of the hearing, the number of witnesses and amount of evidence produced during the hearing it is not possible to predict when the Demarcation claim decision will be handed down.

State Wage Case:

Annually the WAIRC in Court Session issues a decision setting the WA minimum wage.

WALGA provided a written submission on behalf of the Local Government sector and made oral submissions at the hearing in May 2026, to provide the Local Government perspective. The submission provided that wage increases should balance the provision of fair and sustainable wages with the capacity of Local Governments to responsibly manage their budgets in the interests of the communities they serve.

3. GOVERNANCE AND PROCUREMENT

WALGA's Governance and Procurement team continues to experience a high level of demand for our advisory services to Members, particularly in relation to reforms. Changes to the Model Code of Conduct, Local Law review requirements and Audit Risk and Improvement Committees (ARICs) have been a particular focus.

In response to clear demand from Members, WALGA has developed training on Essential Skills for Independent Audit Risk and Improvement Committee members. The first delivery earlier this year was highly successful, and two sessions were delivered in July, including a regional delivery in Corrigin.

In addition to facilitating formal training sessions on ARICs, the Governance and Procurement team have delivered in house workshops and presentations to support Members with meeting procedures, and those preparing for extraordinary elections.

A Procurement Network Forum webinar held on 30 July 2026, attracted over 150 subscribers registered to attend. The webinar featured a presentation by Anka Burns, Partner at Lavan, on how Local Governments can achieve efficient, high-value procurement outcomes while meeting compliance obligations.

The Forum also provided important updates on:

- PRIS and its contractual impacts from 1 July.
- Confidentiality provisions under Local Government Act reform.
- The Preferred Supplier Program.

The Governance Newsletter was distributed on 25 June 2026 and included:

- Reminder to Local Governments to establish their ARICs by 30 June 2026.
- Messages from the Local Government Inspector.
- Practical guidance on responding to current supply and market pressures.
- Shared insights about countering foreign intelligence following a briefing from the Department of Home Affairs.
- An overview of legislative developments relating to the *Cat Act 2011*.
- New and updated resources to assist Members with managing primary and annual reports, preparing the annual report and publicly available information.

WALGA participated in a Local Law Working Group with representatives from the Joint Standing Commission on Delegated Legislation, the Minister's office and Departments who have an interest in Local Laws. WALGA provided a sector perspective on ongoing challenges with the local law-making process, and opportunities for improvement, as well as an update on resources available through WALGA's Local Laws subscription. A further meeting has been proposed for early 2027.

4. TRAINING

Council Member Essentials

At the 2025 election, a total of 578 Councillors were elected and seventeen have since resigned (2.94%). As of 30 June 2026, 95.37% of Councillors have enrolled with WALGA Training. Of that pool, 68% have now completed all 5 modules, 17.82% are progressing through their modules and 11.24% have not yet started their training.

Certificate III in Local Government

The July intake for the Certificate III in Local Government has been highly successful, with five trainees and two existing workers commencing the program. This represents our largest July intake since the program began in 2023. This well-established foundation program is highly regarded across the sector and plays an important role in supporting Local Governments, particularly in regional areas, to attract and retain skilled employees. A recent graduate survey found that more than 81% of graduates remain employed in Local Government, with over 47% having progressed to a higher-level position. These outcomes demonstrate the program's value in supporting workforce development and retention in a challenging labour market.

Training Scholarships

Scholarships for the two Local Government Diploma programs have been announced.

The **Future Leaders Scholarship** supports Local Government Officers to undertake the LGA50120 Diploma of Local Government, strengthening capability across governance,

legislation and decision-making. The program is designed for practical application in the workplace, equipping participants with the knowledge, judgement and confidence to contribute effectively to governance processes, manage risk, and engage with stakeholders in complex Local Government environments.

The 2026 **Jacqui Dodd Scholarship** is now also open. Since 2021, this Scholarship, named in honour of the late Jacqui Dodd, former long-serving WALGA Training Services Manager, has been awarded to Metropolitan and Regional Elected Members. The Scholarship supports Elected Members to undertake the LGA50220 Diploma of Local Government – Elected Member, the highest qualification an Elected Member can achieve through WALGA Training.

Career Pathways for Local Government

At WALGA's 2026 People & Culture Seminar, a panel of Local Government professionals shared their career journeys, highlighting the value of learning and development in building workforce capability and future leaders.

The panel showcased diverse career pathways across the sector. Kirsty Ferraro, Director Customer and Development Services at the Shire of Waroona, reflected on her journey from trainee to senior leader. Taylah Platell, a current Local Government trainee, shared her experience entering the sector directly from school, while Dylan Fryer from the Shire of Dumbleyung spoke about transitioning into Local Government and building specialist planning expertise through further study and employer support.

Drawing on experiences from trainee to senior leadership, panellists demonstrated how traineeships, qualifications and ongoing professional development support career growth and strengthen organisational capability. Andrew Trosic, Director Development Services at the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale and WALGA Trainer and Assessor, emphasised the increasing need for Local Government employees to develop governance, legislative and decision-making skills alongside technical expertise.

New WALGA Training Directory now available

The 2026/2027 WALGA Training Directory was launched at the People and Culture seminar in July. The publication is available in a hardcopy version and via the [WALGA website](#).

DTWD Funding for Traineeships

The WALGA Training team is currently preparing a tender submission to be included on the Department of Training and Workforce Development's Preferred Provider Panel for 2027-2031. Inclusion on the panel will enable WALGA to continue accessing Jobs and Skills WA traineeship funding for the Certificate III and Diploma of Local Government programs, supporting affordable and accessible training opportunities for eligible participants across WA.

11.1.4 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, POLICY PORTFOLIO

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy

FOR NOTING

The Policy Portfolio comprises the following work units:

- *Economic Policy and Development*
- *Environment and Waste*
- *Planning and Building*
- *Emergency Management*
- *Community*

The following outlines the activities of the Policy Portfolio since the July 2026 State Council meeting.

1. ECONOMIC POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT

The June WALGA Quarterly Economic Briefing was released in July 2026. The Briefing highlights that, despite growing global uncertainty and renewed inflationary pressures driven by rising fuel and energy costs, the Western Australian economy remains resilient, supported by strong investment, population growth and labour market conditions. Reflecting the increasing cost pressures facing the sector, WALGA has revised the Local Government Cost Index (LGCI) forecast upward, with higher labour, fuel and construction costs expected to continue impacting Local Government budgets and service delivery.

WALGA has also commenced a review of the LGCI to identify how it can be enhanced to better support Local Government functions and decision-making. As a first step, Local Governments have been invited to provide feedback on the LGCI through a short survey.

WALGA received 47 responses to its Economic Development Survey, which sought feedback from Local Governments on key priorities and policy concerns. The results will inform WALGA's ongoing economic development advocacy and sector support.

2. ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE

Polyphagous shot-hole borer

Grant funding of \$120,000 was provided to each of the 30 eligible Local Governments in the PSHB Management Zone in June 2026 through the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) PSHB Local Government Support Scheme. The WA Tree Recovery Local Government Grant Program – Round 2, closed on 3 July 2026, and is oversubscribed, with applications received from 26 of 31 eligible Local Governments. Notification of successful applicants is expected in August.

DPIRD invited targeted stakeholder review of the draft PSHB Integrated Pest Management Resource Suite, with WALGA providing feedback on the 16 guidance documents which outline best practice approaches and tools to support effective surveillance, tree treatment and disposal of infested materials. The Resource Suite is expected to be published shortly. WALGA has requested that DPIRD also develop a Local Government PSHB Management Plan template to support consistency across the sector.

WALGA completed a Transition to Management (T2M) survey of the sector in April 2026. The aim of the survey was to determine how the sector is preparing for long-term management and the resources and assistance required. Key findings include minimal removal of infested trees since the commencement of the T2M phase on 1 July 2025, impacts on annual planting programs due to avoidance of highly susceptible host species, and a strong need for State Government to provide ongoing coordination and funding of long-term management. The survey results were presented to DPIRD and the Urban Forest Working Group.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act Environmental Standards

The Australian Government is developing five new National Environmental Standards as part of reforms to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The National Environmental Standards include:

- [Matters of National Environmental Significance](#) (consultation closed 29 May 2026, endorsed by [Flying Minute](#));
- [Environmental Offsets](#) (consultation closed 9 June, advice to ALGA);
- [Community engagement](#) (consultation closed 7 July, advice to ALGA);
- [Data and Information](#) (D&I) (consultation closed 7 July); and
- First Nations engagement (yet to be released).

WALGA has provided feedback on all the Standards released to date, either through submissions endorsed by State Council, submissions under cover of existing Advocacy Positions or via feedback to ALGA. Once all of the Standards are finalised, WALGA will work with ALGA to provide information to the sector on their application.

State Council Agenda item [10.7](#) refers to this matter.

Waste Strategy

WALGA has continued to advocate to Government for the release of the State Waste Strategy. The review process for the current Strategy commenced in 2023 and finished in late 2025 with consultation on a revised draft Strategy. The WALGA President raised WALGA's concerns regarding delays to the Strategy release with the Environment Minister at their meeting on 29 July 2026, highlighting the impacts on Local Governments ability to develop waste plans, ensure ongoing high-quality services to their community and implement new systems like FOGO. The Minister indicated the Strategy was due to be released imminently.

3. PLANNING AND BUILDING

Planning Reforms

The State Government has made three significant planning reform announcements in July aimed at increasing housing supply and improving the efficiency of the planning system:

- Significant [reforms to the Residential Design Codes \(R-Codes\)](#) to modernise the planning framework including changes to lot size requirements to enable additional development and subdivision potential and changes to the R-Codes structure and built form controls.
- Establishment of [Precincts WA](#), that will initially apply to 10 priority station precincts across metropolitan Perth.
- [Further changes to the planning system](#) aimed at increasing efficiency, reducing administrative burden and support faster decision making, including planning exemption for up to four grouped houses and apartments where they meet planning standards, a new statutory timeframe at the critical delivery stage of the subdivision

process that will require local governments to respond to proponents within 28-days of receiving engineering drawings for road design and waterways.

Local Government plays a key role in the above and WALGA will work with the sector to advocate for reforms that are fit-for-purpose, appropriately consider local impacts and can be efficiently implemented over the long term. WALGA will also use its recently endorsed [Train Station Precinct Advocacy Position](#) to advocate for Local Government priorities in the planning and delivery of current and future State-led station precinct developments.

Tree Retention Model Local Planning Policy Update

WALGA developed the Model Local Planning Policy (LPP) for Tree Retention in 2024 to regulate trees on private land. To date, eleven Local Governments have adopted a Tree Retention LPP. The value of the policy has recently been reinforced by a State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) decision dismissing an appeal against the Town of Bassendean's refusal of a development application seeking the removal of a mature tree.

Following several recent SAT decisions, WALGA sought a legal review of the Model LPP. The review confirmed that the policy is legally sound, however, has recommended minor amendments to further emphasise the role of the LPP as an exempting instrument. An updated version of the Model LPP incorporating these changes is due to be released in early August.

In June 2026, WALGA hosted a workshop for Local Governments that have adopted, or are in the process of adopting, a Tree Retention LPP. The workshop provided an opportunity for Local Governments to share insights and key learnings, build sector capacity, and identify common challenges. WALGA is currently collecting 2024/25 financial year data from participating Local Governments on development applications involving Regulated Trees.

CoastWA Grants

On 9 July 2026, the State Government awarded \$4.09 million in CoastWA grants to support 35 projects addressing coastal erosion, hazards and management across the State. CoastWA grants are a critical funding source for Western Australian Local Governments who are planning for and managing increasing coastal impacts.

Local Governments were provided support to apply for grants by WALGA's CoastWA Local Government Facilitator. In particular, the Facilitator provided extensive support to the Shire of Gingin, including the drafting of two grant applications, both of which were successful.

WALGA has recently received funding from the Western Australian Planning Commission to extend the CoastWA Local Government Facilitator role to October 2029.

4. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management Survey 2025

WALGA has presented findings from the 2025 Emergency Management Survey across a range of Local Government, emergency management and government forums. These engagements have supported discussions on emergency management capability, funding and reform, while highlighting the practical challenges and lived experiences of Local Governments in delivering emergency management services. In addition to presentations at the State Council Strategic Forum, a sector webinar and WALGA's Emergency Management Forum, findings have been shared with the:

- Bushfire Operations Committee;

- State Bushfire Advisory Council;
- Interagency Bushfire Operations Committee;
- State Emergency Management Committee and its subcommittees;
- Community Emergency Services Manager Forum; and
- Perth Local Emergency Management Committee.

Community Emergency Services Managers (CESM) Program

The State Government has announced the allocation of four new Community Emergency Services Managers (CESMs), delivering on its 2025-26 Budget commitment to expand the program across regional Western Australia. The new positions will support groups of Local Governments in Bruce Rock, Merredin and Narembeen; Boddington and Wandering; Koorda, Mount Marshall and Mukinbudin; and Dandaragan. The CESM Program has now grown to 41 positions supporting 70 Local Governments and continues to play an important role in strengthening Local Government capability across prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities. WALGA welcomes the additional investment and will continue to advocate for expansion of the program to all Local Governments that would benefit from CESM support.

Proposed new Disaster Recovery Funding Framework

The Australian Government is consulting on a proposed new Disaster Recovery Funding Framework (DRFF), which is intended to replace the current Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. The framework will guide how the Commonwealth and State Governments support recovery and reconstruction following significant disasters, including essential public assets managed by Local Governments. Consultation occurred on a short timeframe. WALGA provided input to the ALGA submission and consulted with Local Governments in preparing a WALGA submission, to be provided to State Council by Flying Agenda ahead of the 19 August deadline for feedback. WALGA is also a member of the time limited working group under the State Emergency Management Committee, developing the WA State response to the proposed changes. WALGA will undertake further advocacy and engagement as reform progresses.

Lessons from 2025-26 Southern Bushfire Season

The WALGA Emergency Management team has contributed to the *Thematic Analysis of WA Bushfire Incident Management 2025/26* through its participation in the IBOC Bushfire Lessons Management Working Group, comprising representatives from DFES, DBCA and WALGA. The multi-agency report draws on lessons and insights from debriefs, After Action Reviews and the DFES Observations Register following significant bushfire incidents and deployments during the 2025-26 Southern high threat period. To ensure Local Government experiences were reflected in the analysis and to validate emerging findings, WALGA conducted targeted interviews with the Shires of Boddington and Ravensthorpe in June and July 2026. These discussions examined the alignment between state agency observations and local experiences during major bushfire events, including the Boddington bushfire series and the West River, Fitzgerald River and Dunn Rock bushfires, strengthening the report's whole-of-sector perspective and recommendations for continuous improvement.

5. COMMUNITY

Rural Health

On 22 June 2026, WALGA delivered a presentation to the Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance Session in Canberra. Convened by the [Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance](#), the session brought together representatives from over 30 councils to

discuss Local Government support for healthcare services in rural and remote communities. WALGA's presentation highlighted key findings from our primary healthcare support [surveys](#), insights into the Western Australian context, and outlined ongoing advocacy efforts. The session also provided an opportunity to encourage national collaboration, including the development of comparable data across jurisdictions. WALGA reaffirmed its offer to support ALGA and other State and Territory Local Government Associations to replicate the WALGA survey methodology, with the aim of strengthening the national evidence base and informing future advocacy.

Arts and Culture Infrastructure Grant Program

On 30 June 2026, WALGA hosted a webinar in partnership with LotteryWest on the [Arts and Culture Infrastructure Grant Program](#). The program is providing \$30 million in funding to support arts and cultural infrastructure projects through three grant rounds over the period FY2025–26 to FY2027–28. More than 35 attendees participated in the webinar and received guidance on engaging with the grant program, including developing project concepts and practical approaches to preparing grant applications. The webinar also provided an opportunity to promote investment in arts and cultural infrastructure, consistent with WALGA's advocacy for a \$60 million per annum Community Arts and Cultural Facilities Fund. Applications for the current grant round close on 10 August 2026.

Fuel Support Payment - Public Libraries Support

In June 2026, WALGA responded to a request from the Hon Jessica Stojkovski MLA, Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport, seeking advice on how public libraries could assist community members access the State Government's [Fuel Support Payment](#). Working in partnership with the State Library of Western Australia and Public Libraries WA, WALGA provided sector insights and facilitated opt-in library participation. WALGA also coordinated a webinar connecting the Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure (DTMI) with the public library sector. The initiative demonstrates the value of public libraries as trusted community hubs that support access to information and government services. Participating libraries are now working directly with DTMI. The payment scheme ends at the end of the year.

Social Cohesion Pilot

WALGA is supporting the Office for Social Cohesion, Department of Home Affairs Expression of Interest (EOI) process to identify a Western Australian Local Government to host a pilot of the Connections that Matter Community Leadership Program. The program aims to strengthen social cohesion by building community members' understanding of civic participation, leadership and the characteristics of a socially cohesive and resilient democracy. The WA pilot will include a series of facilitated in-person workshops for community members, supported by resources from the draft *Connections that Matter: Social Cohesion Engagement Guide*. The EOI process closed on 7 August 2026. More information about the Connections that Matter program and EOI process is available [here](#).

11.2 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The [President's Report](#) was made available at the time the Agenda was published.

FOR NOTING

11.3 CEO'S REPORT

The CEO's Report will be circulated to State Councillors with the Revised Agenda (under separate cover).

FOR NOTING

12 ADDITIONAL ZONE RESOLUTIONS

To be advised following Zone meetings.

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 2 December 2026 commencing at 4:15pm.

14 CLOSURE

STATUS REPORT ON STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
1 July 2026 Item 8.1 Climate Change Advocacy Position	That State Council replace the Climate Change Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 4.1 with a new Climate Change Advocacy Position as follows: 1. <i>Local Government acknowledges the risks associated with, and is committed to addressing, climate change to meet the needs of their communities.</i> 2. <i>WALGA calls on the Australian and Western Australian Governments to:</i> a. <i>Provide the necessary climate leadership, coordination and action to ensure an orderly transition to achieve emission reduction targets and address the impacts of climate change.</i> b. <i>Ensure that Local Government has the funding, guidance and practical support required to meet increasing risk and expanded legislative requirements to plan for, mitigate and adapt to climate impacts.</i> RESOLUTION 034.3/2026	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.	COMPLETE	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy
1 July 2026 Item 8.2 Train Station Precincts Advocacy Position	That State Council endorse the following new Advocacy Position: <i>Train Station Precincts</i> 1. <i>Local Government supports a coordinated approach to the planning and development of train station precincts that is transport orientated, place responsive and provides for increased housing density and diversity.</i>	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.	COMPLETE	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	2. <i>In developing Train Station Precinct Improvement Plans and Schemes the State Government must:</i> <i>a. Give comprehensive and genuine consideration to existing and progressing local planning frameworks, ensuring effective integration and alignment with broader local planning instruments and community infrastructure planning.</i> <i>b. Ensure effective collaboration, partnerships and coordination across Government agencies and with Local Government.</i> <i>c. Prioritise redevelopment of State-owned land to deliver optimal housing and mixed-use outcomes excluding Bush Forever sites, environmental reserves and other protected sites.</i> <i>d. Undertake meaningful and ongoing community engagement.</i> <i>e. Directly fund and/or implement funding mechanisms to deliver public realm and infrastructure requirements.</i> 3. <i>Decisions on future State-led train station precincts must be evidence-based, transparent, made in consultation with Local Government, and give due consideration to Local Government requests for State-led train station precinct planning.</i> RESOLUTION 036.3/2026			

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
1 July 2026 Item 8.3 Submission on the Cat Act Review	That State Council endorse the submission on the Review of <i>Cat Act 2011</i> . RESOLUTION 037.3/2026	The submission on the <i>Cat Act</i> has now been lodged and is available on the WALGA website .	COMPLETE	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services
1 July 2026 Item 8.4 State Council Corporate Governance Charter and State Council Standing Orders Review and Update	That State Council endorse the updated Corporate Governance Charter and Code of Conduct, with the following additional amendments: 1. Delete section 14.2.4 Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) and all references to MWAC in the Corporate Governance Charter, in recognition that it has been wound up, effective 30 June 2026. 2. Remove the names of the Advisory Groups (formerly Policy Teams) from the Corporate Governance Charter to allow for flexibility. RESOLUTION 038.3/2026	The Corporate Governance Charter and Code of Conduct have been updated and circulated to State Councillors.	COMPLETE	Rachel Horton Executive Manager Advocacy
1 July 2026 Item 8.4 State Council Corporate Governance Charter and State Council Standing Orders Review and Update	That State Council endorse the updated State Council Standing Orders, with the following additional amendments: 1. Include the power for individual State Councillors to have their dissention on a particular vote recorded in the Minutes (a power previously contained in the Corporate Governance Charter). 2. Include a new requirement to record the President's casting vote in the Minutes. 3. Remove the word "motion" from section 13. RESOLUTION 039.3/2026	The State Council Standing Orders have been updated and circulated to State Councillors.	COMPLETE	Rachel Horton Executive Manager Advocacy

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
7 May 2026 Item 8.5 Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Wind-Up	That State Council: 1. Wind-up the Partnership Agreement which establishes the Municipal Waste Advisory Council, effective 30 June 2026. 2. Note the replacement of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council with a Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee. RESOLUTION 022.2/2026	The final Municipal Waste Advisory Council meeting was held on 18 June 2026. Regional Councils and Subsidiaries have been invited to join the Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee and advertising will commence in early August for Local Government representatives.	COMPLETE	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy
3 December 2025 Item 8.1 2025 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	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 RESOLUTION 070.5/2025 <i>The AGM resolutions are as follows:</i> 7.1 Provision of Medical Services in Remote and Very Remote Local Governments <i>That WALGA calls on the Western Australian Government and WA Grants Commission to:</i> 1. <i>increase the total funding and then the Medical Facilities Cost Adjuster component of the Financial Assistance Grants to Local Governments; and</i>	In relation to AGM item 7.1 – Improving access to primary healthcare services in rural and remote areas remains an advocacy priority for WALGA, supported by the WALGA 2025 General Practice Support Survey Report published in January 2026. This advocacy priority is also reflected in the current Federal and State Budget Submissions and aligned to the revised Advocacy Position endorsed by State Council in September 2025. WALGA is exploring opportunities for partnership advocacy on this matter with health sector stakeholders. This work includes developing solution options.	Ongoing	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	2. <i>recalculate distributions to those Local Governments that are providing block cash payments to attract and retain general practitioners to allow affected Council to redirect ratepayer funds to Local Government responsibilities.</i> 7.2 Homelessness – Short-term Accommodation Solutions <i>That WALGA advocate to the State Government to provide culturally appropriate short term accommodation options and wrap-around support services that provide sustainable homelessness solutions in all Local Governments across Western Australia.</i>	Progress will be shared with State Council in due course. In relation to AGM item 7.2 – State Council has endorsed a new Homelessness Advocacy Position: <i>WALGA calls on the Western Australian and Australian Governments to provide leadership, support and sustainable, long-term funding to prevent and respond to homelessness, in particular by:</i> <i>1. Ensuring specialist homelessness services are responsive to local need, place-based and people-centred.</i> <i>2. Investing in crisis accommodation, social and affordable housing and wraparound services.</i> <i>3. Strengthening homelessness data collection and sharing arrangements to provide current, granular and locally relevant information to inform funding and improve service provision.</i> RESOLUTION 021.2/2026		

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
3 December 2025 Item 8.1 2025 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	That: ... 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 RESOLUTION 070.5/2025 <i>The AGM resolution is as follows:</i> 7.4 Rating Exemption Advocacy Position <i>That WALGA, in addition to its current advocacy positions 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 relating to rating exemptions, advocate to the WA Government for the introduction of a reimbursement model, whereby the WA Government repays Local Government the greater of:</i> <i>1. 75% of the value of rates lost in applying the charitable purposes exemption; or</i> <i>2. 1% of the total rate revenue of the Local Government.</i>	This item has been referred to the Governance Advocacy Group for further consideration. WALGA's current advocacy positions call for a broad review into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories, with a particular focus on the charitable purpose's exemption. WALGA included funding for a review of rates in its most recent State Budget submission. Additional concerns regarding rating and rating exemptions have arisen and WALGA is currently developing a RFQ to have a review undertaken by an external consultant.	Ongoing	Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services
3 December 2025 Item 8.2 2026 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members	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: - A new recommendation that the Regional/Isolation Allowance be reviewed in full, noting that the application of the Allowance is inequal and inconsistent. - 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.	The submission to SAT was updated to include those additional points and provided to the Tribunal on 6 January 2026. The Advocacy Positions Manual has also been updated to reflect the recommendations contained in the submission. The request to reclassify Elected Members as not volunteers	Ongoing	Rachel Horton Executive Manager Advocacy Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	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 <i>Public Service Award 1992</i> 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	(as per point 5 of the resolution) has been referred to the Governance Advocacy Group Team for further consideration.		
2 July 2025 Item 8.1 Suspension and Disqualification for Offences Advocacy Position	That WALGA defers consideration of this matter for further work, including: a. defining appropriately serious offences for intervention; and b. addressing the role of the Local Government Inspector. c. evaluating whether advocacy for disqualification based on convictions under the <i>Planning and Development Act 2005</i> and <i>Building Act 2011</i> should be retained. RESOLUTION 037.3/2025	Work has commenced on defining appropriately serious offences for intervention. Further work will be undertaken pending clarification of the role of the Office of the Inspector.	Ongoing	Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
5 March 2025 Item 9.1 Infrastructure Policy Team Report	That State Council: - Note the report from the Infrastructure Policy Team for the 5 March 2025 meeting. - Determine to: - Delete Advocacy Position 5.2.8 (Towards Zero Road Safety Strategy 2008 – 2020). - Amend the title of Advocacy Position 5.2.7 from Road Safety Strategy (Imagine Zero) to Driving Change Road Safety Strategy 2020-2030. - Undertake further policy development and consultation with Members regarding the default open road speed limit in Western Australia. RESOLUTION 013.1/2025	The Infrastructure Policy Team resolved to recommend WALGA engage an independent specialist to develop a framework to support the Local Government sector in decision making and advocacy relating to speed limits. This was delayed pending anticipated changes to Main Roads WA policy. The revised Main Roads WA Speed Zoning Policy and Application Guidelines have been released for review. WALGA will host an online workshop to discuss the policy and hear Local Government views on the revision.	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure