



# GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items

## Unconfirmed Minutes

Friday 19 April 2024  
Zoom Videoconference, commencing at 9.00am

## CONTENTS

|            |  |           |
|------------|--|-----------|
| <b>1.</b>  | <b>OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....</b>  | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>2.</b>  | <b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST.....</b>  | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>3.</b>  | <b>RECORD OF ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE .....</b>  | <b>3</b>  |
|            | 3.1 Attendance .....   | 3         |
|            | 3.2 Apologies.....   | 3         |
|            | 3.3 Guests .....   | 4         |
|            | 3.4 WALGA Representatives .....  | 4         |
|            | 3.5 DLGSC Representatives .....  | 4         |
| <b>4.</b>  | <b>MINUTES OF MEETINGS.....</b>  | <b>5</b>  |
|            | 4.1 Minutes of a Meeting of GVROC to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items held 23 February 2024 ..... | 5         |
| <b>5.</b>  | <b>DLGSC REPORT .....</b>  | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>6.</b>  | <b>EMERGING ITEMS .....</b>  | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>7.</b>  | <b>Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Decision .....</b>                                   | <b>7</b>  |
|            | 7.1 Waste Levy Advocacy Position .....   | 7         |
|            | 7.2 Adoption of Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework.....  | 10        |
|            | 7.3 Enhanced and Alternative Education Opportunities for Regional WA .....                                 | 12        |
| <b>8.</b>  | <b>Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Noting/Information.....</b>                          | <b>13</b> |
|            | 8.1 WALGA 2023 Emergency Management Survey.....  | 13        |
|            | 8.2 Tree Retention Model Local Planning Policy .....   | 15        |
|            | 8.3 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Plan Implementation<br>17                   | 17        |
|            | 8.4 Planning and Building Performance Monitoring Project.....  | 19        |
|            | 8.5 2024 WALGA Aboriginal Engagement Forum .....   | 21        |
|            | 8.6 Importance of WALGA becoming a registered employer organisation .....                                  | 23        |
| <b>9.</b>  | <b>Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Policy Team Reports .....</b>                                    | <b>25</b> |
|            | 9.1 Environment Policy Team Report.....  | 25        |
|            | 9.2 Governance Policy Team Report .....  | 26        |
|            | 9.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report.....   | 26        |
|            | 9.4 People and Place Policy Team Report.....   | 27        |
|            | 9.5 Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report .....   | 29        |
| <b>10.</b> | <b>Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Organisational Key Activity Reports .....</b>                    | <b>30</b> |
|            | 10.1 Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio .....  | 30        |
|            | 10.2 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio.....   | 30        |
|            | 10.3 Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio.....  | 30        |
|            | 10.4 Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio .....  | 30        |
| <b>11.</b> | <b>Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Policy Forums and Other Reports .....</b>                        | <b>30</b> |
|            | 11.1 President’s Report.....   | 30        |
|            | 11.2 CEO’s Report .....  | 30        |
|            | 11.3 Ex Officio Reports.....   | 30        |
| <b>12.</b> | <b>Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – State Council Status Report .....</b>                            | <b>31</b> |
|            | 12.1 Complete Status Report on State Council Resolutions - To the May 2024 State Council Meeting.....      | 31        |
| <b>13.</b> | <b>LATE ITEMS as notified, introduced by decision of the Meeting .....</b>                                 | <b>32</b> |
| <b>14.</b> | <b>FUTURE MEETINGS .....</b>   | <b>32</b> |
| <b>15.</b> | <b>CLOSURE OF MEETING .....</b>  | <b>32</b> |

# GOLDFIELDS VOLUNTARY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (GVROC)

**Videoconference meeting of the GVROC Council to consider WALGA State  
Council Agenda Items held Friday 19 April 2024 9.00am**

## AGENDA

### 1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The purpose of the meeting is to provide advice to the GVROC WALGA State Council Representative, on the Agenda for the WALGA State Council Meetings to be held on 1 May 2024.

### 2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Pursuant to the Code of Conduct, Councillors and CEOs must declare to the Chairman any potential conflict of interest they may have in a matter before the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils as soon as they become aware of it. Councillors, CEOs and Deputies may be directly or indirectly associated with some recommendations of the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils. If you are affected by these recommendations, please excuse yourself from the meeting and do not participate in deliberations.

Nil.

### 3. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

#### 3.1 Attendance

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Cr Mal Cullen (Chair) | President, Shire of Coolgardie                            |
| Cr Sherryl Botting    | Councillor, Shire of Coolgardie (Proxy for Cr T.Rathbone) |
| Cr Glenn Wilson       | Mayor, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder                         |
| Cr Laurene Bonza      | President, Shire of Dundas                                |
| Mr Peter Fitchat      | CEO, Shire of Dundas                                      |
| Cr Sharon Warner      | Councillor, Shire of Dundas                               |
| Cr Wes Graham         | Councillor, Shire of Esperance                            |
| Cr Patrick Hill       | President, Shire of Laverton                              |
| Mr Ty Matson          | CEO, Shire of Leonora                                     |
| Cr Peter Grundy       | President, Shire of Wiluna                                |
| Mr Andrew Mann        | Executive Officer, GVROC                                  |

#### 3.2 Apologies

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Cr Tracey Rathbone | Councillor, Shire of Coolgardie        |
| Mr James Trail     | CEO, Shire of Coolgardie               |
| Cr Wayne Johnson   | Councillor, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder |
| Mr Andrew Brien    | CEO, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder        |
| Cr Ron Chambers    | President Shire of Esperance           |
| Mr Shane Burge     | CEO, Shire of Esperance                |
| Cr Shaneane Weldon | Councillor, Shire of Laverton          |
| Mr Phil Marshall   | CEO, Shire of Laverton                 |
| Cr Peter Craig     | President, Shire of Leonora            |
| Cr Paul Warner     | President, Shire of Menzies            |
| Cr Sudhir Sudhir   | Councillor, Shire of Menzies           |
| Ms Glenda Teede    | CEO, Shire of Menzies                  |
| Cr Ane Koroicure   | Councillor, Shire of Wiluna            |
| Mr Rob Stewart     | A/CEO, Shire of Wiluna                 |
| Mr David Mosel     | CEO, Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku          |
| Cr Damian McLean   | President, Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku    |

### **3.3 Guests**

Nil

### **3.4 WALGA Representatives**

**Ian Duncan**                      Executive Manager, Infrastructure  
**Conor Macgill**                 Senior Policy Advisor, Waste Management

### **3.5 DLGSC Representatives**

Nil – see DLGSC report (**Attachment 2**)

## 4. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

### 4.1 Minutes of a Meeting of GVROC to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items held 23 February 2024

Minutes of the GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council held Friday 23 February 2024 are presented for adoption (**Attachment 1**).

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council held Friday 23 February 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

**RESOLUTION:**                      **Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**  
   **Seconded: Cr Sherryl Botting, Shire of Coolgardie**

---

Carried

## 5. DLGSC REPORT

**From:**                      Department Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC)

**Attachment:**              DLGSC report – April 2024 – WALGA Zone meetings (**Attachment 2**)

#### Background:

DLGSC have provided its April 2024 report for consideration at all WALGA Zone meetings as per the **Attachment 2**.

#### Comment:

DLGSC have requested that if WALGA zones have any questions on the report, WALGA will note these at the meetings and send them to the DLGSC for a response. The DLGSC will then provide answers to these questions and circulate them back to WALGA for advice back to the WALGA zones. For individual queries from zone members, a list of DLGSC contacts is contained in the report.

#### RECOMMENDATION

The GVROC notes the DLGSC report April 2024 as presented.

**RESOLUTION:**                      **Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**  
   **Seconded: Cr Sharon Warner, Shire of Dundas**

---

Carried

|                          |
|--------------------------|
| <b>6. EMERGING ITEMS</b> |
|--------------------------|

**From:** Chair GVROC

**Background:**

WALGA State Council meets five times each year and as part of the consultation process with Member Councils circulates the State Council Agenda for input through the Zone structure. The Zone can provide comment or submit an alternate recommendation that is then presented to the State Council for consideration.

A full copy of the State Council Agenda for the meeting on 1 May 2024 can be found at **Attachment 3**.

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

## **7. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Decision**

### **7.1 Waste Levy Advocacy Position**

#### **WALGA Recommendation**

#### **That State Council:**

- 1. Replace the existing WALGA *Waste Levy Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 7.4 Waste Management Funding*:**

#### **Local Government considers that:**

- 1. Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy funds should be hypothecated to strategic waste management activities in line with the State Waste Strategy and strongly opposes the application of the Levy to non-waste management related activities, such as funding State Government core activities; and**
- 2. The Levy should not be applied to licensed landfills outside the metropolitan area.**

- 2. Endorse a new Waste Levy Advocacy Position as follows:**

**The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy (the Levy) was established in WA to fund programs relating to the management, reduction, reuse, recycling, monitoring or measurement of waste and administering the fund. The current Levy is applied to waste generated, or landfilled, in the Perth metropolitan area.**

**Currently, only 25% of the collected funds are retained for strategic waste management activities, 75% are allocated to the ongoing operations of the Department responsible for administration of the Levy.**

#### **Local Government considers that:**

- 1. The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy funds must be fully hypothecated to strategic waste management activities in line with the State Waste Strategy and not be used for non-waste management related activities, such as funding State Government core activities.**
- 2. Strategic waste management activities funded by the State Government should:**
  - a. Provide adequate funding and support for Regional Councils, non-metropolitan and metropolitan Local Governments;**
  - b. Reflect the targets and priorities within the Waste Strategy;**
  - c. Fully fund and acknowledge the life cycle costs of infrastructure and services; and**
  - d. Facilitate the development, implementation and ongoing operation of Product Stewardship Schemes.**
- 3. The Levy should not be applied to waste generated in the non-metropolitan area as it is not feasible, or appropriate, to implement the Levy in areas with a limited rate base, access to markets for recycled materials, economic growth and resources to manage such a change.**
- 4. The Levy should not be applied to waste received at premises undertaking licensed activities whose primary purpose is resource recovery.**
- 5. The Levy must be supported by a clear, evidence-based rationale to demonstrate the suitability of how charges are set, how and where funds are allocated, and the extent to which it is delivering on its objectives.**

#### **IN BRIEF:**

- The Waste Levy and Strategic Waste Funding Policy Statement was first endorsed in 2008 and was amended in 2018.**
- The Statement outlines the Local Government position on levies charged on the weight or volume of waste received at licensed premises and the application of those funds to waste management activities.**

- In 2023, the WA Government published the findings of a Review of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Levy. The consultation summary report and supporting consultant report can be accessed on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) [website](#).
- Key outcomes of the Levy Review included a five-year schedule of increases and a commitment to investigate extending the levy boundary to regional areas.
- The new Waste Levy Advocacy Position uses contemporary language emphasises:
  - Full hypothecation of the Levy;
  - The key areas of expenditure for the Levy;
  - Opposition to the expansion of the Levy's geographic application;
  - Opposition to the application of the Levy to resource recovery activities; and
  - The need for a clear evidence-based rationale for setting and expending the Levy.
- The Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) endorsed the new Advocacy Position in February 2024.

## **ATTACHMENT**

- Waste Levy Policy Statement

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

This item rescinds the existing [Policy Statement](#) and [Advocacy Position](#):

### **7.4 Waste Management Funding**

*Local Government considers that:*

1. *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy funds should be hypothecated to strategic waste management activities in line with the State Waste Strategy and strongly opposes the application of the Levy to non-waste management related activities, such as funding State Government core activities; and*
2. *The Levy should not be applied to licensed landfills outside the metropolitan area.*

A new Advocacy Position for the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy is proposed:

The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy (the Levy) was established in WA to fund programs relating to the management, reduction, reuse, recycling, monitoring or measurement of waste and administering the fund. The current Levy is applied to waste generated, or landfilled, in the Perth metropolitan area.

Currently, only 25% of the collected funds are retained for strategic waste management activities, 75% are allocated to the ongoing operations of the Department responsible for administration of the Levy.

*Local Government considers that:*

1. The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy funds must be fully hypothecated to strategic waste management activities in line with the State Waste Strategy and not be used for non-waste management related activities, such as funding State Government core activities.
2. Strategic waste management activities funded by the State Government should:
  - a. Provide adequate funding and support for Regional Councils, non-metropolitan and metropolitan Local Governments;
  - b. Reflect the targets and priorities within the Waste Strategy;
  - c. Fully fund and acknowledge the life cycle costs of infrastructure and services; and
  - d. Facilitate the development, implementation and ongoing operation of Product Stewardship Schemes.
3. The Levy should not be applied to waste generated in the non-metropolitan area as it is not feasible, or appropriate, to implement the Levy in areas with a limited rate base, access to markets for recycled materials, economic growth and resources to manage such a change.
4. The Levy should not be applied to waste received at premises undertaking licensed activities whose primary purpose is resource recovery.
5. The Levy must be supported by a clear, evidence-based rationale to demonstrate the suitability of how charges are set, how and where funds are allocated, and the extent to which it is delivering on its objectives.



**BACKGROUND:**

WALGA's [Waste Levy Policy Statement](#) and Advocacy Position 7.4 Waste Management Funding were first endorsed in 2008, and amended in 2018 following a review and to reflect the implementation of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 (State Waste Strategy).

The updated Advocacy Position has been updated to make the language more contemporary and outlines the Local Government position on levies charged on the weight or volume of waste received while undertaking licensed activities, and the application of those funds to waste management activities.

The key elements of the Advocacy Position remain, there is no support for the non-metropolitan application of the Levy and all funds raised through the Levy should be hypothecated to Strategic waste management activities.

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) endorsed the new Advocacy Position in February 2024.

**COMMENT:**

Currently, 75% of Levy funds go to consolidated revenue with the remaining 25% hypothecated to the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Account. A significant proportion of funds allocated to the WARR Account goes into funding ongoing operations of the Department. MWAC has identified the continued importance of full hypothecation of the Levy to strategic waste management activities. [WALGA's Budget Submission](#) identifies the need for the full Levy amount to be expended on strategic waste management initiatives.

WALGA's 2020 [Submission](#) to the Levy Review reiterated key points of WALGA's position, in particular Local Governments' concern regarding a potential expansion of the levy to non-metropolitan areas. Following the Levy Review, DWER has advised it is preparing a consultation regulatory impact statement (CRIS) on options to expand the area where the WARR Levy applies. This is expected to be released for comment in 2024. The CRIS will examine the benefits, costs and financial impacts of expanding the area.

When the two Waste to Energy facilities begin operation, the amount of waste to landfill and consequently Levy generation will decrease. The State Government's long-standing position is that only residual waste is to be used for energy recovery following better practice source separation and does not propose to apply a levy on this material. The ongoing implementation and promotion of State Waste Strategy target initiatives such as Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) systems, community education and behaviour change programs and the Container Deposit Scheme are also expected to be reduce landfill volumes.

The State Budget projections for the Levy show a decreased income, but greater hypothecation of the Levy to the WARR Account to compensate for the reduced income. This will maintain the annual funding amount to the WARR account, which provides assurance for Local Government of ongoing support for waste initiatives. However, as a significant proportion of funds within the account are directed to the ongoing operations of DWER, WALGA will continue to argue strongly for full hypothecation of levy funds to strategic waste management activities.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**The GVROC note and support the WALGA Recommendation as provided.**

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**  
**Seconded: Cr Wes Graham, Shire of Esperance**

---

**Carried**

## **7.2 Adoption of Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

**That WALGA Zone’s note and adopt the Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework to determine the priority of a particular policy or advocacy issue, and guide future decision-making.**

### **BACKGROUND**

State Council uses a Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework to guide discussion and decision-making on policy and advocacy issues. The Framework was developed in 2020 on the request of State Council to assist State Councillors in determining the priority of a particular issue relative to existing (and competing) policy and advocacy priorities.

The Framework (included below) utilises 11 criteria to sharpen thinking (e.g. the impact on the Local Government sector, the number of Member Local Governments affected, the level of support amongst the public or other stakeholders, etc.), and encourage decision-makers to consider the wider context and impacts of the issue before settling on a pathway forward.

The Great Southern Country Zone also adopted the Prioritisation Framework not long after it was developed in 2020.

### **COMMENT**

It is proposed that all Zones consider adopting the Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework as included below.

If the Zone were to adopt the Prioritisation Framework, Zone Delegates could use it to guide their decision-making when determining whether or not to request action or advocacy from WALGA on a particular issue (that is, sector-wide issues). Issues that are not sufficiently prioritised (that is, regional issues) could instead be dealt with at the Zone level (e.g. through direct advocacy efforts on behalf of the Zone).

The Prioritisation Framework could also be used by Zone Delegates when drafting Agenda items and motions on policy or advocacy issues, using the criteria as prompts for what kind of information to include.

The Prioritisation Framework does not remove the need for judgements to be made and is intended to *guide*, not replace, decision-making.

How to use the Framework:

- If the majority of the factors are towards the left column, the issue is a high priority.
- If the majority of the factors are towards the middle, the issue requires action, but is not a high priority.
- If the majority of the factors are towards the right column, the issue is a low priority.

Following prioritisation, an appropriate and proportionate policy and advocacy approach can be determined.

|  |             |  |            |
|--|-------------|--|------------|
| <p><b>Impact on Local Government Sector</b><br/>Impact on Local Government sector without intervention</p>   | High        | Medium   | Low        |
| <p><b>Reach</b><br/>Number of member Local Governments affected</p>  | Sector-wide | Significant<br>(multiple regions, Zones, or bands) | Few        |
| <p><b>Influence</b><br/>Capacity to influence decision makers</p>  | High        | Medium   | Low        |
| <p><b>Principles</b><br/>Alignment to core principles such as autonomy, funding, general competence</p>  | Strong      | Partial  | Peripheral |
| <p><b>Clarity</b><br/>Policy change needed is clear and well-defined</p>   | Clear       | Partial  | Unclear    |
| <p><b>Decision-maker support</b><br/>Level of support among decision-makers (political and administrative)</p>   | High        | Medium   | Low        |
| <p><b>Public support</b><br/>Level of support among the public or other stakeholders</p>   | High        | Medium   | Low        |
| <p><b>Positive consequences for WALGA</b><br/>Prospect of positive consequences for WALGA. E.g. enhanced standing among members or leverage for other issues.</p>                                    | High        | Medium   | Low        |
| <p><b>Negative consequences for WALGA</b><br/>Prospect of negative consequences for WALGA for not undertaking the advocacy effort. E.g. diminished standing among members or other stakeholders.</p> | High        | Medium   | Low        |
| <p><b>Partnerships</b><br/>Potential for partnerships with other stakeholders</p>  | Yes (3+)    | Possibly (1-2)                                     | No (0)     |

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the GVROC as representative of the Goldfields Esperance Region Zone, adopt the Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework to determine the priority of a particular policy or advocacy issue, and guide future decision-making.

**RESOLUTION:**                      **Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**  
   **Seconded: Cr Wes Graham, Shire of Esperance**

**Carried**

## **7.3 Enhanced and Alternative Education Opportunities for Regional WA**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

**That WALGA Regional Zones note and consider the item as presented by the Great Southern Country Zone regarding enhancement and alternative education opportunities for Regional students in WA.**

### **ATTACHMENT**

- Great Southern Country Zone letter to Minister for Education, Hon. Tony Buti MLA on 21 March 2024 (**Attachment 4**)

### **BACKGROUND**

The Great Southern Country Zone has written to the Minister for Education, Hon. Tony Buti MLA Zone seeking support to prioritise increased State Government investment to improve regional education, including:

- Increased access to alternative programs for students disaffected by main-stream education, those at risk or who have specific learning needs, who may be disruptive, falling behind and at risk of failing to learn; providing these students with intensive support, active, empathic, and practical instruction, combined with health and other services to enable their success.
- Increased secondary education distance ATAR, VET and other WACE subject courses, if necessary supplemented by private providers, with qualified teacher mentoring and support provided in schools closest to students, supplemented with online access to subject specialist teachers to enable student success.
- Implement strategies to attract and retain quality teachers and subject specialists in remote communities, including:
  - Subsidised high standard GROH housing.
  - Increased financial bonuses, for remote locations and to encourage longer term retention.
- Providing sufficient GROH housing for State Government employees to reduce pressure on regional private rental availability and improve housing security for teachers and all Government service staff when transferring to regional locations.

The Great Southern Country Zone's call to action from State Government, seeks to reduce disadvantage for students living in regional Western Australia, so they can access the same quality educational opportunities available in metropolitan and regional centres, without need to attend boarding schools. In addition, these strategies will also deliver substantial economic and social benefit for regional communities.

### **COMMENT**

If your region also experiences disadvantage in educational opportunities, the Great Southern Country Zone now seeks your consideration of the below recommendations and if the GVROC, as representative of the Goldfields Esperance Region Zone, accepts the recommendations below, then it use the above content to assist in developing our submissions.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the GVROC as representative of the Goldfields Esperance Region Zone:**

- 1. Supports the call to action to reduce regional disadvantage in educational opportunities,**
- 2. Agrees to write to the Minister for Education requesting action; and**
- 3. Requests the WALGA Secretariat to advocate to State Government on this matter.**

### **RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton**

**Seconded: Cr Sherryl Botting, Shire of Coolgardie**

---

**Carried**

## 8. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Noting/Information

### 8.1 WALGA 2023 Emergency Management Survey

#### WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the results of the 2023 Local Government Emergency Management Survey.

#### IN BRIEF:

- 102 (75%) of the 137 mainland WA Local Governments responded to WALGA's 2023 Emergency Management Survey.
- Key issues raised by Local Governments included: community preparedness and resilience; capacity to respond to and manage recovery; management of Bush Fire Brigades; inadequate LGGS funding; lack of emergency management resources; and challenges accessing grant funding.
- The survey demonstrates the importance of Community Emergency Services Managers (CESMs) to Local Governments that have one and that many regional Local Governments without a CESM would like one.
- The survey identified several issues with the *Bush Fires Act 1954* that Local Governments would like to see resolved in the proposed Consolidated Emergency Services Legislation.
- The survey results will inform WALGA's policy development and advocacy on behalf of the sector, including the WALGA 2024-25 State Budget Submission, and in the lead up to the next State and Federal elections.
- A summary of the survey results was presented at the State Council Information Forum on 3 April, and in a Sector webinar was held on 11 April 2024.

#### ATTACHMENT:

- [Executive Summary – WALGA 2023 Emergency Management Survey](#)

#### BACKGROUND:

WALGA undertakes a Local Government Emergency Management Survey every two years, with previous surveys undertaken in 2019 and 2021.

In 2019, WALGA undertook the 'Before, During, After' Local Government Emergency Management Survey. Actions undertaken as a result of the survey feedback included the establishment of a Local Government Emergency Management Network, and development of a new 'Emergency Management for Local Government Leaders' training course.

The 2021 survey built on the feedback received in the 2019 Survey with a specific focus on managing volunteer Bush Fire Brigades. The results provided the basis for a review of [WALGA's Emergency Management Advocacy Positions](#) and have enabled WALGA to effectively represent the Local Government sector's interests, including through:

- The State Emergency Management Committee, State Bushfire Advisory Committee, Inter-Agency Bushfire Operations Committee; and
- Representations to Government and policy submissions, including the 2023-24 and 2024-25 WALGA State Budget Submissions.

102 (75%) of the 137 mainland WA Local Governments responded to WALGA's 2023 Emergency Management Survey, which was conducted from 6 November and 8 December 2023.

#### COMMENT:

Key issues raised by Local Governments in responding to the 2023 Survey included: community preparedness and resilience; capacity to respond to and manage recovery; management of Bush Fire Brigades; inadequate LGGS funding; lack of emergency management resources; and challenges accessing grant funding.

The survey demonstrates the importance of Community Emergency Services Managers (CESMs) to Local Governments that have one and that many regional Local Governments without a CESM would like one. The survey also identified several issues with the *Bush Fires Act 1954* that Local Governments would like to see resolved in the proposed Consolidated Emergency Services Legislation.

The 2023 Survey results provide critical information to underpin WALGA's Emergency Management policy and advocacy work. The results will inform WALGA's policy development and advocacy on behalf of the sector, supporting the [WALGA 2024-25 State Budget Submission](#), and in the lead up to the 2025 State and Federal elections. Key focus areas include the need for adequate resourcing for Local Government Emergency Management, increased support for volunteer Bush Fire Brigades (BFB) and State Emergency Service (SES) through the Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGs) and ensuring matters important to Local Government are considered in the development of the Consolidated Emergency Services Act.

Supporting material will be prepared to summarise and communicate key information to Local Governments, State and Federal Government and other stakeholders.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC note the results of the WALGA 2023 Local Government Emergency Management Survey.**

**RESOLUTION:**                      **Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**  
   **Seconded: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton**

---

**Carried**

## 8.2 Tree Retention Model Local Planning Policy

### WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the Tree Retention Model Local Planning Policy.

#### IN BRIEF:

- WALGA's model Tree Retention Local Planning Policy (LPP) was released in March 2024.
- The LPP aims to create a consistent regulatory framework for tree protection across WA.
- The LPP stipulates the circumstances in which a development approval is required to remove a tree and guides the assessment of these applications and other planning proposals.

#### ATTACHMENT

- [Model Local Planning Policy: Tree Retention](#)
- [Letter from the WALGA President to the Minister for Minister for Planning; Lands; Housing; Homelessness](#)

#### POLICY IMPLICATIONS

WALGA Advocacy Position **4.6 Urban Forest:**

*To promote the growth of Western Australia's urban forest the State Government should:*

1. *Identify a lead agency with responsibility for setting the strategic direction and oversight of urban forest initiatives.*
2. *Provide recurrent funding for a comprehensive and accessible Urban Greening Grant program to support Local Government investment in public realm planting, focusing on high urban heat areas and enhancing biodiversity outcomes.*
3. *In consultation with Local Government:*
  - a. *Develop a state-wide Urban Forest Strategy, based on the overarching principles of a resilient, connected, expanded and equitable urban forest including:*
    - i. *a minimum tree canopy target of 30% by 2040 for the Perth and Peel regions,*
    - ii. *robust and contemporary data to inform decision making,*
    - iii. *funding mechanisms to support growth in urban canopy.*
  - b. *Develop contemporary legislative and policy mechanisms to enable the protection and growth of urban forest, including:*
    - i. *an effective and efficient regulatory mechanism that allows Local Government to consider the removal or alteration of a significant tree as a form of development,*
    - ii. *incentivising the provision and retention of trees on private property within the state planning framework,*
    - iii. *prioritisation of trees and vegetation as a key structural element in the design of new neighbourhoods to facilitate climate resilient and liveable communities,*
    - iv. *consideration of public realm design to maximise opportunities for tree retention and new planting consistent with any tree canopy targets.*
4. *Work with Local Government and other stakeholders to increase community awareness and promote behaviour change in relation to urban forest growth and retention to support State and Local Government targets and action.*

#### BACKGROUND:

The current State planning framework is largely silent on regulatory and policy mechanisms that can be used to retain trees on private land. Local Governments have sought to address this void through different statutory mechanisms, namely local planning policy or local planning scheme provisions. Proposed changes to local planning schemes by Local Governments to include tree protection provisions on private land within have been rejected by the Minister for Planning.

In 2023, WALGA prepared an *Issues Paper: Local Government Approaches to Tree Retention* (Issues Paper) which outlined the key challenges for Local Government in retaining trees on private land and street trees. Legal advice on the questions posed in the Issues Paper was procured from McLeods

Barristers and Solicitors, who produced the *Legal Response to the Local Government Approaches to Tree Retention* (2023). The legal advice was purchased by approximately 50 Local Governments.

Key findings from the legal advice include:

- The removal of a tree is an activity that falls within the concept of ‘works’;
- Whether or not the works involved in removing a tree amount to a development that requires approval is a matter of fact and degree and is therefore inherently uncertain; and
- To remove uncertainty, it would be preferable for the planning framework to stipulate the circumstances in which approval is required to remove a tree. This can be done via scheme or policy provisions.

The development of a model LPP in response to the legal advice was identified by the Urban Forest Working Group (UFWG) as a high priority. The model LPP has been developed by WALGA, in consultation with the UFWG, and reviewed by McLeods.

The model LPP:

- Clarifies that the tree removal (or other tree damaging activity) is works that requires development approval;
- Introduces and defines the term ‘regulated tree’ being a living tree that:
  - Is 8 metres or more high, and/or
  - Has an average canopy diameter of at least 6 metres,
  - Has a trunk circumference of at least 1.5 metres, measured 1.4 metres above the ground, and
  - is of a species that is not included on State or local area weed register;
- Lists the circumstances where tree damaging activity would be exempt from requiring a development approval (i.e. tree does not meet the definition of regulated tree); and
- Promotes and facilitates tree preservation at all stages of the planning and development process, including strategic planning proposals and subdivision applications, as well as development applications.

The model LPP was [released](#) in March 2024.

**COMMENT:**

Local Governments can adopt the LPP in accordance with the procedures set out in the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Scheme) Regulations 2015*, which requires community consultation and consideration by Council.

The provisions of the model LPP can be modified to respond specific Local Government context or community feedback. WALGA is recommending that Local Governments seek to minimise changes, particularly in relation to the definition of regulated tree and when a development application is required for tree damaging activity, to promote consistency in approach and reduce uncertainty for decision makers, proponents, and communities.

The model LPP has been well received by the sector with a number of Local Governments investigating the use of, or preparing to implement, the policy.

WALGA briefed the Minister for Planning on the model LPP prior to its release and provided him with a copy on its release. The WALGA President has also promoted the LPP during media interviews with ABC Radio and 6PR.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC note WALGA’s Tree Retention Model Local Planning Policy.**

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton**

**Seconded: Mayor Glenn Wilson, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder**

---

**Carried**



## **8.3 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Plan Implementation**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

**That State Council note the Local Emergency Management Arrangement Improvement Project update.**

#### **IN BRIEF:**

- In December 2023, the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) endorsed a Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Plan, including funding to deliver the first phase of the Plan.
- The LEMA Improvement Plan aims to progress the local emergency management reforms recommended by Local Governments in the LEMA Review and will be delivered as a partnership between WALGA and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES).
- WALGA has been allocated \$356,000 to employ a LEMA Project Lead to work directly with Local Governments to develop and pilot new LEMA approaches over an 18-month period.

#### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Advocacy Position 8.11 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA):**

1. *The State Government should fund the implementation of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Plan endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC).*
2. *A reformed LEMA system should:*
  - a. *Clearly articulate the roles and responsibilities of Local Governments in emergency management;*
  - b. *Simplify the reporting processes and reduce the administrative burden of maintaining compliance;*
  - c. *Provide a suite of scalable tools and guidance materials that are accessible through an online knowledge hub;*
  - d. *Build the emergency management capacity and capability of Local Governments through the provision of targeted training, exercising support, human resources and sustainable funding;*
  - e. *Assist Local Governments to continue to deliver their core business activities and provide public information during an emergency event;*
  - f. *Improve the connectivity of Local Governments' various risk management and hazard planning processes through an integrated approach; and*
  - g. *Enable resource sharing and collaboration across the Local Government sector.*

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Under the *Emergency Management Act 2005* WA Local Governments are required to establish one or more Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMCs) and maintain Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) for their district. LEMA refers to the suite of emergency management documentation, systems, processes, agreements, and memorandums of understanding (MOU) that support a coordinated approach to EM at the local level.

Recognising the need for a more contemporary and fit-for-purpose local emergency management system, in 2019 the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) approved a review of the current LEMA model to identify the key issues and opportunities for improvement. In 2021, WALGA was allocated [AWARE Funding](#) to lead a Local Government consultation for the LEMA Review to ensure a sector-informed approach.

From April to December 2022, WALGA consulted with 100 Western Australian Local Governments to inform the LEMA Review. The resulting [LEMA Review Consultation with Western Australian Local Governments: Project Summary and Recommendations Report](#) laid the groundwork for a comprehensive [LEMA Improvement Plan and a five-year implementation approach](#). The Plan aims to reduce administrative burden and build the knowledge and capability of Local Governments in developing and maintaining fit-for-purpose LEMA. The SEMC approved the Plan and funding from the State Level Project Fund to deliver Phase 1 of the LEMA Improvement Plan in December 2023.

Phase 1 will be delivered as a partnership project between WALGA and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) on behalf of the SEMC. WALGA has been allocated \$356,000 to employ a LEMA Project Lead to work directly with Local Governments to co-develop and pilot new LEMA approaches and supporting resources over an 18-month period.

**COMMENT:**

The initiation of the LEMA Improvement Program demonstrates the commitment of the State Government to progress LEMA reforms. However, as outlined in WALGA's [2024-2025 Budget Submission](#), funding of \$1 million per year over 5 years is needed to implement the full LEMA Improvement Plan. WALGA's submission also requests \$9 million per annum for a Local Government Emergency Management Program to build the capacity of Local Governments to maintain effective LEMA and sustain improvements over the longer term.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC note the WALGA Local Emergency Management Arrangement Improvement Project update.**

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton**

**Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**

---

**Carried**

## 8.4 Planning and Building Performance Monitoring Project

### WALGA Recommendation

**That State Council note the results of the 2022-23 Local Government Performance Monitoring Project.**

#### IN BRIEF:

- WALGA's Local Government Performance Monitoring Project has been undertaken annually since 2017.
- WALGA uses the findings of the project to support advocacy and policy development, particularly around planning and building regulation reform.
- 42 Local Governments participated in the 2022-23 Project, representing approximately 90% of Western Australia's population and 94% of the State's total population growth between 2021 and 2022.
- The 2022-23 data shows that Local Governments have maintained high levels of performance in undertaking their strategic and statutory planning and building functions.
- The findings of the Project are incorporated into an online interactive dashboard publicly available through the WALGA website.

#### ATTACHMENT

- [Key Indicator Snapshot](#)
- [Performance Monitoring Dashboard](#)

#### BACKGROUND:

The *Local Government Performance Monitoring Project* (the Project) and associated *Local Government Performance Monitoring Report* (the Report) was initiated by the Growth Alliance Perth and Peel (GAPP) group and WALGA in 2017, in response to inaccurate and misleading reporting of the planning performance metropolitan Local Governments by Property Council WA.

The Project and accompanying Report have been undertaken annually since that time, with the number of participating Local Governments increasing from 11 to 43 in 2022-23. The process of collecting and reporting data has also been refined and improved. The Performance Monitoring Dashboard, now in its third year, provides a collated view of all participating Local Governments across the seven years of Project reporting, and allows Local Governments to analyse and compare performance by year, region or against individual Local Governments. The use of the dashboard reduces project costs and reporting times and allows for a faster expansion of the project.

The dashboard is not intended to be a comparison of individual Local Government performance; however it allows individual Local Governments to draw comparisons between themselves and other Local Governments, which may be useful for those who may have similar development pressures and resourcing.

#### COMMENT:

42 Local Governments now participate in the project:

|                       |                   |                        |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Albany                | Armadale          | Augusta-Margaret River |
| Bassendean            | Bayswater         | Belmont                |
| Broome                | Bunbury           | Busselton              |
| Cambridge             | Canning           | Cockburn               |
| Denmark               | East Fremantle    | Fremantle              |
| Gosnells              | Greater Geraldton | Harvey                 |
| Joondalup             | Kalamunda         | Karratha               |
| Kwinana               | Mandurah          | Manjimup               |
| Melville              | Mosman Park       | Mundaring              |
| Nannup                | Nedlands          | Northam                |
| Perth                 | Port Hedland      | Rockingham             |
| Serpentine Jarrahdale | South Perth       | Stirling               |

Subiaco  
Victoria Park

Swan  
Vincent

Toodyay  
Wanneroo

These Local Governments represent approximately 90% of Western Australia's population and 94% of the state's total population growth between 2021 and 2022. Collectively they provide a strong indication of how the Local Government sector in Western Australia is performing in the areas of strategic and statutory planning and building regulation. There is low standard deviation within most specific measures, and average sector performance year on year is consistent, this indicated a high degree of confidence that the reported performance is reflective of the sector as a whole, and that high levels of performance by some larger Local Governments are not impacting sector averages.

Key findings from the 2022-23 data:

- Participating Local Governments determined 55,598 applications (development applications, subdivision referrals and building permits), a 16% decrease on the previous year;
- 92% of these applications were determined or responded to within statutory timeframes;
- 99% of all development applications were approved;
- 97% of all development applications were determined under delegated authority;
- 22 Local Governments are currently reviewing their Local Planning Scheme (LPS);
- Local Governments continue to be concerned at the length of time taken to receive consent to advertise and final endorsement for LPSs; and
- For scheme amendments:
  - Local Governments finalised 64 scheme amendments in 2022-2023,
  - 60% of the time taken to complete scheme amendments could be attributed to State Government processes, significantly higher than the 49.5% average over the 7 years of reporting.

WALGA uses the findings of the project to support advocacy and policy development, particularly around planning and building regulation reform and to reinforce the critical role of Local Government in the planning system. WALGA will continue to utilise this information to inform policy development, advice and advocacy in relation to any legislation, policy or regulations prepared by the State which affect the planning and building functions of Local Government.

WALGA is encouraging additional Local Governments to participate in the 2023-24 financial year reporting period, with a focus on the remaining metropolitan and peri-urban Local Governments.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC note the results of the 2022-23 Local Government Performance Monitoring Project.**

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton**  
**Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**

---

**Carried**

## **8.5 2024 WALGA Aboriginal Engagement Forum**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

**That State Council note the report on the 2024 Aboriginal Engagement Forum.**

#### **IN BRIEF:**

The WALGA Aboriginal Engagement Forum was held on 20 March 2024 at the State Reception Centre in Kaarta Gar-up (Kings Park).

The Forum provides an opportunity for the WA Local Government sector and partners to embrace the principles of reconciliation, through respectful Aboriginal and community engagement.

Feedback from speakers, attendees, WALGA Executive and State Councillors has been overwhelmingly positive, with 93 per cent of survey respondents saying they would attend future Forums.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

WALGA has delivered Aboriginal Engagement Forums (the Forum) since 2017. The Forums provide an opportunity for the WA Local Government sector and partners to embrace the principles of reconciliation - to listen, learn and share with a collective goal of creating positive outcomes for Aboriginal Peoples and the wider community. The Forums aim to build capacity to achieve better practice policy, programs, and service delivery in Local Government.

The 2024 theme 'Djinaning Koora Djinaning Boorda' (Looking Back to Move Forward) acknowledged that our shared path to reconciliation is not straight forward but through reflection, sharing experiences, innovation, and collaboration we can inspire each other and move forward. The morning session, Djinaning Koora (Looking Back) centered around the understanding that without acknowledging our past and its impact, we are unable to move forward to achieve true reconciliation. The afternoon session, Djinaning Boorda (Moving Forward) celebrated the role Local Government plays in driving local level reconciliation. The [news article](#) on the Forum provides further reflections on the program.

187 delegates that attended the Forum, including:

- 34% identifying as Aboriginal;
- 108 from Local Government, including 17 Elected Members, representing 43 Local Governments across 13 WALGA Zones; and
- representatives from the not-for-profit sector, Aboriginal Organisations, State Government agencies and other businesses.

The Forum was facilitated by Ballardong Noongar woman Roanna Edwards as Master of Ceremonies. The program included presentations from Cr Yvonne Weldon from the City of Sydney, Carol Innes, Co-Director of Danjoo Koorliny, and representatives from Local Governments and Aboriginal organisations. The afternoon panels showcased a diverse mix of projects by Local Governments from across the State. Increased Aboriginal representation was evident, with First Nation presenters in all sessions.

The production of the event was elevated to align with the WALGA rebranding and create an event 'look and feel' consistent with the Forum's aim of providing space to share and learn. The planning of the event was supported by a Reference Group for cultural guidance that included State Councillors, Cr Barry Winmar and Cr Helen Sadler as well as Deborah Wilkes, Deputy CEO at the Shire of Shark Bay and Local Government officers.

#### **COMMENT:**

Ticket sales for the 2024 Forum were lower than expected, despite a managed and targeted marketing campaign. While it is difficult to precisely identify the reasons for the lower attendance, this has also been the recent experience of other organisations holding events in this space and has been attributed to an unease and uncertainty about engaging in the Aboriginal policy space post the Voice Referendum.

Feedback on the Forum from attendees has been overwhelmingly positive, with 93 per cent of survey respondents saying they would attend future Forums. Frequent comments along the lines of "best Forum to date" reflect the concerted effort to elevate both the production and programming of the event and the collaboration between the WALGA Policy and Advocacy teams, Elected Member representatives and Local Government officials via the Reference Group and other channels.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC note the WALGA report on the 2024 Aboriginal Engagement Forum.**

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: *Mayor Glenn Wilson, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder***

**Seconded: *Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas***

---

**Carried**

## **8.6 Importance of WALGA becoming a registered employer organisation**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

**Item for noting – Importance of WALGA becoming a registered employer organisation.**

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Currently, WALGA is a registered industrial agent under the [Industrial Relations Act 1979 \(WA\) \(IR Act\)](#) which allows us to:

- appear as an agent for a WA Local Government or Regional Council (**Local Government**) in the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission (**WAIRC**), Industrial Magistrate's Court or Industrial Appeal Court (**State Courts**); and
- provide advice or other services to Local Governments in relation to 'industrial matters' as defined in s.7 of the IR Act.

Since the mandate for Local Governments<sup>1</sup> to operate in the State industrial relations (**IR**) system from 1 January 2023, unions<sup>2</sup> have commenced various Local Government State awards<sup>3</sup> (**LG State Awards**) variation claims in the WAIRC to amend industry employment conditions including to:

- increase minimum wages for outside workers;
- introduce Fair Work standards in the State system (increase casual loading from 20 to 25%; insert casual conversion; and insert flexible working arrangements) and other conditions (insert employment equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons; insert cultural and ceremonial leave; and amend severance pay for regional redundancies); and
- increase industry allowance for compensation for disabilities on construction and maintenance work.

In addition, the WASU, LGRCEU and other unions (such as the **Construction, Forestry, and Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU)**) as 'employee organisations' can make industrial agreements with Local Government employers under the IR Act.

A [recent decision of the WAIRC](#) has outlined although WALGA may intervene in award matters we are unable to represent named LG State Award employers and the broader Local Government sector in our own right.

Despite WALGA's advocacy since December 2022, the State Government has not agreed a pathway for WALGA to be provided with standing as an employer organisation under the IR Act.

For WALGA to represent Local Governments' views and have the same standing as the unions under the IR Act it has become vital for WALGA to seek to amend its constitution to apply to become an employer organisation.

If WALGA was to become an employer organisation it would provide more opportunity for WALGA to modernise the LG State Awards and intervene in industrial matters concerning the Local Government sector. In addition, the WAIRC is more likely to notify WALGA of award applications or variations and industrial agreement changes reducing the risk of unions being able to change the terms and conditions of the sector, with limited to no input from Local Governments or WALGA.

#### **COMMENT:**

WALGA will be looking to amend its constitution to enable WALGA to become a registered employer organisation at the 2024 AGM in October 2024.

An agenda item will be prepared for the June/July round of Zone/State Council meetings detailing the proposed amendments.

---

<sup>1</sup> with the exception of the Shires of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands

<sup>2</sup> The Western Australian Municipal, Administrative, Clerical and Services Union of Employees (**WASU**) and the Local Government, Racing and Cemeteries Employees Union (WA) (**LGRCEU**)

<sup>3</sup> The [Local Government Officers' \(Western Australia\) Award 2021](#) and the [Municipal Employees \(Western Australia\) Award 2021](#). These awards have not been updated significantly since prior to the introduction of the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth). They were old 1999 Federal awards which were registered without amendment as interim awards in 2011 in the State system. They then became State awards in 2021. No significant amendments have been made to these awards over 23 years.

This item is for the Zones awareness of the need for WALGA to become an employer organisation and to note that constitutional amendments will be required.

For any questions about the constitutional amendment process, please contact Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services, [tbrown@walga.asn.au](mailto:tbrown@walga.asn.au) or (08) 9213 2051.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC note the item as presented regarding the importance of WALGA becoming a registered employer organisation.**

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**  
**Seconded: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton**

---

**Carried**



## **9. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Policy Team Reports**

The following provides an outline of the key activities of the Policy Teams since the last State Council meeting.

### **Policy Teams**

#### **9.1 Environment Policy Team Report**

#### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council note the matters considered by the Environment Policy Team at its meeting on 6 March 2024.**

*The Environment Policy Team includes the following subject areas:*

- *Environment*
- *Planning*
- *Climate change*
- *Building Regulation*
- *Natural resource management*
- *Urban Forests*

This Report provides an update on matters considered by the Environment Policy Team at its meeting on 6 March 2024.

#### **1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION**

Nil

#### **2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING**

Nil

#### **3. PORTFOLIO UPDATES**

The Policy Team was provided with updates on:

- Urban Forests
  - The release of WALGA's model Tree Retention Local Planning Policy (LPP);
  - Round One of the Local Government Urban Greening Grant Program; and
  - The State Government's announcement of the development of a Perth and Peel Urban Forest Strategy.
- Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer;
- The State Government's consideration of the Report of the Independent Panel's Review of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* ;
- Local Government planning fees and charges – the Minister for Planning; Lands; Housing; Homelessness has agreed to a comprehensive review; and
- Native vegetation clearing permit assessment timeframes.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC notes the matters considered by the Environment Policy Team as presented.**

#### **RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas  
Seconded: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton**

---

**Carried**

## **9.2 Governance Policy Team Report**

### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council note the report on the Governance Policy Team.**

The Governance Policy Team 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

The Governance Policy Team have not held a meeting since the last State Council meeting in March.

A meeting of the Governance Policy Team will be scheduled to occur in May, where the following key items of business will be presented:

- Standardised Meeting Procedures Submission
- Elections Review Report

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**GVROC notes the Governance Policy Team report as presented.**

**RESOLUTION:**                      **Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**  
   **Seconded: Cr Sheryl Botting, Shire of Coolgardie**

---

**Carried**

## **9.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report**

### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council note the matters considered by the Infrastructure Policy Team at its meeting on 6 March 2024.**

*The Infrastructure Policy Team includes the following subject areas:*

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

This Report provides an update on matters considered by the Infrastructure Policy Team at its meeting on 6 March 2024.

### **1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION**

Nil

### **2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING**

The Policy Team noted the Zone Resolutions and Composite resolution for the item on the 6 March 2024 State Council agenda for decision – Separation and Edge Line Markings by Local Government on Low Volume Rural Roads.

The Policy Team progressed actions and advocacy in relation to:

- Regulating heavy vehicle road access conditions; Extended lead time for quotes from Western Power for headworks and changes to infrastructure;
- Royalty payments for mine site materials used in road construction and maintenance;
- Regional Telecommunication Independent Review;
- Review of Main Road Cross over Policy;
- Required changes to the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements; and
- Local Government Active Transport Working Group

The team noted that ALGA has accepted the invitation to hold the National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress in Western Australia in December 2024.

### **3. PORTFOLIO UPDATES**

The Policy Team was provided with a presentation on the areas of focus for the Infrastructure portfolio.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC notes the report by the Infrastructure Policy Team as presented.**

**RESOLUTION:**                      **Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**  
**Secinded: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton**

---

**Carried**

## **9.4 People and Place Policy Team Report**

### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council note the matters considered by the People and Place Policy Team at its meeting on 6 March 2024.**

*The People and Place Policy Team includes the following subject areas:*

- *Community*
- *Emergency Management*

This Report provides an update on matters considered by the People and Place Policy Team at its meeting on 6 March 2024.

### **1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION**

Nil

### **2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING**

The Policy Team discussed the following items for noting on the 6 March 2024 State Council agenda:

- 2024-25 Federal Budget Submission; and
- Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan (EM-SAP) Local Government Consultation Project.

### **3. MATTERS REFERRED BY ZONES**

#### **Murchison Country Zone: Improving the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS)**

At the People and Place Policy Team Meeting on 7 February 2024, the Policy Team considered the following resolution of the Murchison Country Zone:

*That WALGA advocate for improvements to the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) for regional Western Australia particularly around fuel and accommodation subsidies.*

The People and Place Policy Team resolved to:

1. Note the request from the Murchison Country Zone.
2. Request that WALGA write to the Minister for Health to seek a review of the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme.

At the People and Place Policy Team Meeting on 6 March 2024, the Policy Team amended the recommendation to:

1. Note the request from the Murchison Country Zone.
2. Request that WALGA write to the Minister for Health to seek a review of the current level of the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme *with the intention to increase it to reflect current costs, including an annual CPI increase.*

**South East Metropolitan Zone: Mitigating public health implications of increasing temperatures, frequent heatwaves coupled with accelerated depletion of tree canopy.**

**East Metropolitan Zone: Public health planning for climate change (heat) risks**

The People and Place Policy team considered the following resolutions of the East and South East Metropolitan Zones:

*The South East Metropolitan Zone is seeking WALGA:*

- *Develop Model Text Provisions for the sector to address increasing risks to community public health generated by escalating heat wave conditions and Urban Heat Island effects coupled with accelerated loss of tree canopy; and*
- *As a matter of urgency, advocates to the state government to establish additional funding to enable local governments to implement intensive, widespread measures to mitigate the major public health implications of increasing temperatures, frequent heatwaves coupled with accelerated depletion of tree canopy, particularly in urban areas.*

*The East Metropolitan Zone is seeking WALGA:*

- *Develop draft model actions to guide Public Health Plans to address increasing risks to community public health generated by escalating heat wave conditions and Urban Heat Island effects coupled with accelerated loss of tree canopy; and*
- *As a matter of urgency, advocates to the state government to establish additional funding to enable local governments to implement intensive, widespread measures to mitigate the major public health implications of increasing temperatures, frequent heatwaves coupled with accelerated depletion of tree canopy, particularly in urban areas.*

The People and Place Policy Team resolved:

1. To note the resolutions of the South East and the East Metropolitan Zones.
2. The ongoing WALGA advocacy regarding the implementation of Stage 5 of the Public Health Act 2016, as stated in Advocacy Position 3.2.1.
3. That WALGA will continue to advocate for sector support, advice and funding for Public Health Plan drafting and implementation.

#### **Gascoyne Zone: Challenges with Aboriginal Heritage Matters**

The People and Place Policy Team was provided with an update on action arising from the resolution of the Gascoyne Country Zone:

*That the Gascoyne Country Zone requests that WALGA schedules a Teams meeting between the Gascoyne Zone delegates and the relevant Policy Team to discuss the issues the Zone faces in complying with Aboriginal Heritage Legislation and establishing indigenous Land Use Agreements.*

On 22 February 2024, WALGA convened an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Roundtable for the Gascoyne Zone in Carnarvon. The aim of the roundtable was to gain a shared understanding of the requirements under the amended *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and its interaction with heritage surveys, Standard Heritage Agreements, and Indigenous Land Use Agreements; and to share Local Government feedback and progress implementation solutions applicable across the Local Government Sector in partnership with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH). The discussion provided some practical solutions and proposals which WALGA is seeking to progress with DPLH, aligned to the State Government's commitment to guidance and support for the sector.

President Eddie Smith hosted the Roundtable in Carnarvon and informed the Policy Team that it was very informative and worthwhile. The People and Place Policy Team resolved to encourage zones that are inclined to host a roundtable on the Aboriginal Heritage Act with involvement from DWER and DPLH.

#### **4. PORTFOLIO UPDATE**

The Policy Team was provided with updates on the:

- WALGA Emergency Management Survey;
- Power and Telecommunications Roundtable held on 20 February; and
- LEMA Improvement Project.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC notes the report by the People and Place Policy Team as presented.**

#### **RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**  
**Seconded: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton**

---

**Carried**

## 9.5 Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report

### WALGA Recommendation

**That State Council note the resolutions of the 21 February 2024 Municipal Waste Advisory Council Meeting.**

This Report provides an update on matters considered by the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) at its meeting held on 21 February 2024.

#### 1. **MATTERS FOR DECISION**

##### **Waste Levy Advocacy Position**

MWAC resolved to rescind the existing Waste Levy Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 7.4 Waste Management Funding and endorse a new Waste Levy Advocacy Position (State Council [Item 7.1](#) for Decision refers).

##### **Waste Levy Advocacy Position**

MWAC, through WALGA, resolved to write to the Minister for Energy; Environment and Climate Action:

- Expressing Local Governments' concern about the impacts of the e-waste to landfill ban regarding the e-waste to Landfill Band the need for further funding and effective product stewardship in line with WALGA's advocacy position on [Landfill Bans](#); and
- Seeking an update on the outcomes of the consultation on the Container Deposit Scheme expansion, timeframe for the expansion and reiterating Local Governments' strong support for the expansion of the Scheme to include wine and spirit bottles as a minimum.

#### 2. **MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

MWAC considered *Waste Advocacy Priorities for 2024*:

- Increase the proportion of the Waste Levy being provided to Local Government to assist the sector in meeting the State Waste Strategy targets and provide investment certainty;
- Achieve regulatory certainty through provision of the Waste Derived Materials Framework, new DWER Regulatory Framework in place providing a risk-based approach to regulation, and the completion of the WARR Strategy Review and revised State Waste Strategy;
- Ensure the State Waste Infrastructure Plan is fit for purpose across WA, with a specific focus on ensuring sufficient regional infrastructure;
- The implementation of effective product stewardship schemes for electrical and electronic waste, packaging, tyres and mattresses which address WALGA's 10 Principles for Product Stewardship.
- Development of a WALGA Circular Economy Policy Position; and
- Research and engagement with Local Government on key issues with asbestos, including illegal dumping, Local Government infrastructure, emergency management and community need to identify priority action areas and funding required.

MWAC also discussed the importance of ensuring high quality services were in place and ensuring different community needs were met, particularly for CALD communities and different types of development (e.g. multi-residential vs single unit dwellings).

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That GVROC note the resolutions of the 21 February 2024 Municipal Waste Advisory Council Meetings.**

#### **RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**

**Seconded: Cr Wes Graham, Shire of Esperance**

---

Carried

## **10. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Organisational Key Activity Reports**

- 10.1 Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio
- 10.2 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio
- 10.3 Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio
- 10.4 Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio

### **GVROC COMMENT:**

GVROC note the Organisation Key Activity Reports as provided in State Council May Agenda Items.

**RESOLUTION:**                      *Moved: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton*  
   *Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas*

---

Carried

## **11. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Policy Forums and Other Reports**

The following provides an outline of the key activities of the Association's Policy Forums that have met since the last State Council meeting.

### **11.1 President's Report**

#### **WALGA Recommendation**

That the President's Report for May 2024 be received. (refer to Attachment 5)

### **11.2 CEO's Report**

#### **WALGA Recommendation**

That the CEO's Report for May 2024 be received.

### **11.3 Ex Officio Reports**

- The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas will provide the City of Perth Report to the meeting.
- LG Professionals WA State President, Mr Anthony Vuleta, will provide the LG Professionals report to the meeting.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

GVROC notes the President's and CEO's Reports for May 2024 and the Ex Officio reports to be presented at the meeting as received.

**RESOLUTION:**                      *Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas*  
   *Seconded: Cr Sheryl Botting, Shire of Coolgardie*

---

Carried

Cr Patrick Hill left the meeting at 9:40am.

|   |
|---|
| <b>12. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – State Council Status Report</b> |
|---|

**12.1 Complete Status Report on State Council Resolutions - To the May 2024 State Council Meeting**

**GVROC COMMENT:**

Additional to the Complete Status Report on State Council Resolutions, **Attachment 6** provides the relevant Goldfields Esperance Country Zone Status Report.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

GVROC notes the Complete State Council Status Report to the May 2024 State Council meeting and the Goldfields Esperance Country Zone Status Report.

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**

**Seconded: Mayor Glenn Wilson, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder**

---

**Carried**

### **13. LATE ITEMS as notified, introduced by decision of the Meeting**

### **14. FUTURE MEETINGS**

The following suggested dates in 2024 have been set for the remaining GVROC meetings.

- 31 May 2024 in Norseman (to be hosted by Shire of Dundas)
- 26 July 2024 in Kambalda (to be hosted by Shire of Coolgardie)
- 8 October 2024 (Date and Dinner to be confirmed aligned with WALGA AGM at Perth Convention Centre)
- 29 November 2024 in Laverton (to be hosted by Shire of Laverton)

The following are the WALGA State Council meeting dates in 2024 with suggested GVROC Zoom video conference meeting dates prior to these to inform the GVROC's representatives attending the meetings with relevant input for State Council Agenda Items:

- 10 July 2024 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **21 June 2024**
- 5-6 September 2024 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **23 August 2024**
- 4 December 2024 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **15 November 2024**

### **15. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9:50am.