



# **Great Eastern Country Zone**

## **Minutes**

**Merredin Recreation and Leisure Centre**

**Thursday 28 November 2019**

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# Great Eastern Country Zone

Meeting held at the Merredin Recreation and Leisure Centre

Commenced at 9.30am, Thursday 28 November 2019

## Minutes

### 1. OPENING AND WELCOME

### 2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

<b>Shire of Bruce Rock</b>	President Cr Stephen Strange Cr Ramesh Rajagopalan Mr Darren Mollenoyux Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Cunderdin</b>	Mr Stuart Hobley Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Dowerin</b>	Cr Julie Chatfield Ms Rebecca McCall Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Kellerberrin</b>	President Cr Rodney Forsyth Mr Raymond Griffiths Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Kondinin</b>	President Cr Sue Meeking Cr Bev Gangell Ms Mia Dohnt Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Koorda</b>	President Cr Ricky Storer Mr Darren Simmons Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Merredin</b>	President Cr Julie Flockart Cr Mal Willis Ms Kelly Bartley Acting Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Mount Marshall</b>	President Cr Tony Sachse – <b>Deputy Chair</b> Mr John Nuttall Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Mukinbudin</b>	Mr Dirk Sellenger Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Narembeen</b>	President Cr Rhonda Cole - <b>Chair</b> Mr Chris Jackson Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Nungarin</b>	President Pippa DeLacey Cr Eileen O'Connell Mr Adam Majid Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

<b>Shire of Tammin</b>	Cr Glenice Batchelor Cr Tania Daniels Mr Neville Hale Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Trayning</b>	President Cr Melanie Brown Cr Geoff Waters Mr Brian Jones Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Westonia</b>	President Cr Karin Day Mr Jamie Criddle Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Wyalkatchem</b>	President Cr Quentin Davies Ms Taryn Dayman Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Yilgarn</b>	Cr Wayne Della Bosca Cr Bryan Close Mr Peter Clarke Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>GUESTS</b>	Kathleen Brown, Electorate Officer, Mia Davies MLA Office Jennifer Collins, Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries Janet Hartley-West, Main Roads WA Cliff Simpson, Roadwise Gavin Robins, Wheatbelt Development Commission Kristen Twine, Wheatbelt Development Commission Rich Bain, Heavy Vehicle Access Improvement and Policy Manager Jordan Langford, Acting Assistant Auditor General

#### WALGA Representatives

Mr Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Development  
Emma Clements, Employee Relations Services Manager  
Sebastian Davies-Slate, Policy Officer – Transport and Roads

#### Guests

Gavin Robins, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission  
Kristen Twine, Merredin Office, Wheatbelt Development Commission  
Rich Bain, Heavy Vehicle Access Improvement and Policy Manager  
Kathleen Brown, Electorate Officer, Mia Davies MLA Office  
Jordan Langford-Smith, Acting Assistant Auditor General  
Jenifer Collins, Regional Manager Wheatbelt, DLGSC Representative  
Cliff Simpson, Roadwise  
Janet Hartley-West, Main Roads WA

#### **Apologies**

Shire of Cunderdin	President Cr Dennis Whisson Cr Alison Harris
Shire of Dowerin	President Cr Darrel Hudson

Shire of Kellerberrin	Cr Julie Chatfield
Shire of Koorda	Cr Scott O'Neill
Shire of Mount Marshall	Cr Pamela McWha
Shire of Mukinbudin	Cr Nick Gillett
	President Cr Gary Shadbolt

Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt  
Hon Martin Aldridge, Member for the Agricultural Region  
Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt  
Craig Manton, Main Roads WA  
Sharon Broad, Water Corporation

## Attachments

The following were provided as attachments with the agenda:

1. Great Eastern Country Zone Minutes 27 August 2019.
2. Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee Minutes 14 November 2019.
3. President's Report
4. RDA Wheatbelt Update  
State Council Agenda – via link:  
<https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/02b85870-f169-4119-b41c-d388071d8dbc/Agenda-State-Council-4-December-2019.pdf>
5. State Council Submission

## 3. ELECTIONS

### 3.1 Election of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Great Eastern Country Zone

Pursuant to the WALGA Constitution, the Secretariat shall assume the Chair for conducting the election of office bearers.

Guidelines for elections were distributed to Member Councils as an attachment to a letter dated 18 October 2019.

The election for the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson shall be conducted and the term set at two years expiring in November 2021, in line with the terms of State Council representatives and in sync with Local Government Elections.

#### Zone Chair

The following nomination was received for the position of Chair for 2 years, November 2019 to November 2021.

- Cr Rhonda Cole                      Shire of Narembeen

## DECLARATION

**That Cr Rhonda Cole, be elected as Chairperson of the Great Eastern Country Zone for the term of 2 years, November 2019 to November 2021.**

#### Deputy Zone Chair

The following nomination was received for the positions of Deputy Chair for 2 years, November 2019 to November 2021.

- Cr Tony Sachse                      Shire of Mount Marshall

## DECLARATION

**That Cr Tony Sachse, be elected as Deputy Chairperson of the Great Eastern Country Zone for the term of 2 year, November 2019 to November 2021.**

### **3.2 Election of State Council Representatives and Deputy State Council Representatives to the Great Eastern Country Zone**

Pursuant to the WALGA Constitution, the Secretariat shall assume the Chair for conducting the election of representatives and deputy representatives to the State Council.

Guidelines for elections were distributed to Member Councils as an attachment to a letter dated 18 October 2019.

WALGA incorporates a 24 members State Council with its members derived from Metropolitan and Country Zones. The State Council is chaired by the Association President.

In accordance with sub-clause 9(3) of the WALGA Constitution representatives and deputy representatives to the State Council shall be elected by Zones of the Metropolitan and Country constituencies for two (2) year terms, commencing from the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2019 and concluding at the Ordinary Meeting of State Council two years later.

For the Great Eastern Country Zone, there is one (1) Representative position on State Council and one (1) Deputy Representative position. The term is from the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2019 and concluding at the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2021.

#### State Councillor

The following written nomination was received for the position of State Council Representative:

- Cr Stephen Strange                      Shire of Bruce Rock

## DECLARATION

**That Cr Stephen Strange, be elected as State Council Representative of the Great Eastern Country Zone to the State Council for the term of 2 years, December 2019 to December 2021.**

#### Deputy State Councillor

The following two nominations were received for the position Deputy State Councillor Representative for 2 years, November 2019 to November 2021.

Cr Stephen Strange withdrew his nomination.

- Cr Stephen Strange                      Shire of Bruce Rock
- Cr Rhonda Cole                              Shire of Naremben

## DECLARATION

**That Cr Rhonda Cole, be elected as Deputy State Council Representatives of the Great Eastern Country Zone to the State Council for the term of 2 years, December 2019 to December 2021.**

### **3.3 Election of up to Three Zone Executive Committee Members of the Great Eastern Country Zone**

Automatic Executive Committee membership will include the Zone President, Cr Rhonda Cole, Deputy Zone President, Cr Tony Sachse and the State Councillor Representative, Cr Stephen Strange.

The election for the Zone Executive Committee representatives shall be conducted and the term set at two years expiring in November 2021, in line with the terms of Zone Delegates and in sync with Local Government Elections.

The following nomination was received for the positions of up to three Zone Executive Committee members for 2 years, November 2019 to November 2021.

As only one nomination was received for the position of Zone Executive Committee Representative, nominations for up to two Zone Executive Committee Representatives were called from the floor. The following nominations were received from the floor.

- Cr Rod Forsyth, Shire of Kellerberrin
- Cr Julie Flockart, Shire of Merredin
- Cr Geoff Waters, Shire of Trayning

#### **DECLARATION**

**That Cr Rod Forsyth, Cr Julie Flockart and Cr Geoff Waters, be elected as Zone Executive Committee representative for the term of 2 years, November 2019 to November 2021.**

### **3.4 Election of Local Government Agricultural Freight Group of the Great Eastern Country Zone – 1 Delegate and 1 Deputy Delegate**

At the close of nominations, one nomination was received for the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group delegate of the Great Eastern Country Zone.

#### Delegate

The following nomination was received:

- Cr Rodney Forsyth Shire of Kellerberrin

#### **DECLARATION**

**That Cr Rod Forsyth, be elected as Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Delegate of the Great Eastern Country Zone.**

#### Deputy Delegate

No written nominations were received for the position of Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Deputy Delegate. Nominations for Deputy Delegate were called from the floor. The following nomination was received.



- Cr Ricky Storer, Shire of Koorda

## **DECLARATION**

**That Cr Ricky Storer, be elected as Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Deputy Delegate of the Great Eastern Country Zone.**

<b>3.5 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee of the Great Eastern Country Zone – 1 Delegate and 1 Deputy Delegate</b>
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At the close of nominations, one nomination was received for the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee delegate of the Great Eastern Country Zone.

The following nomination was received:

### Delegate

- Cr Tony Sachse Shire of Mount Marshall

## **DECLARATION**

**That Cr Tony Sachse, be elected as Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee Delegate of the Great Eastern Country Zone.**

### Deputy Delegate

No written nominations were received for the position of Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee Deputy Delegate. Nominations were called from the floor. The following nomination was received.

- Cr Julie Flockart, Shire of Merredin

## **DECLARATION**

**That Cr Julie Flockart, be elected as Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee Deputy Delegate of the Great Eastern Country Zone.**

## **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil

## **5. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Nil

## **6. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS**

### **6.1 Office of the Auditor General**

Jordan Langford-Smith Acting Assistant Auditor General, from the Office of the Auditor General for Western Australian presented to the Zone to provide an update on Local Government auditing.

Presentation is attached with the Minutes. (Attachment 1)

### **6.2 Rich Bain - Main Roads Matters**

Rich Bain, Heavy Vehicle Access Improvement and Policy Manager, Heavy Vehicle Services, from Main Roads presented to the Zone.

### **6.3 Regional Early Education and Development**

Helen Creed was scheduled to present at the November Zone meeting, however due to unforeseen circumstances has requested to postpone her presentation until the February 2020 Zone meeting.

**Noted**

## **7. MINUTES**

### **7.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held Tuesday 27 August 2019**

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Tuesday 27 August 2019 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Cr Wayne Della Bosca**

**Seconded: Cr Rod Forsyth**

**That the minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held Tuesday 27 August 2019 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**

**CARRIED**

### **7.2 Business Arising from the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting Tuesday 27 August 2019**

Nil

**7.3 Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held Thursday 14 November 2019**

**RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Cr Tony Sachse**  
**Seconded: Cr Stephen Strange**

**That the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the Great Eastern Country Zone held Thursday 14 November 2019 be endorsed.**

**CARRIED**

**8. ZONE BUSINESS**

**8.1 2019 Local Government Elections**

Zone Local Governments were invited to provide feedback or raise any issues that arose during the 2019 Local Government elections.

A) Requirement to open a voting booth on a Saturday

An issue was raised as to why a Local Government is required to open and provide an election booth on the Saturday of the election, when electors have the opportunity to submit an early vote or a postal vote in the four (4) week period prior to the Election Day.

Local Government have staff working at a booth from 8am to 6pm on the Saturday for very few votes. It is recommended that voting be finalised on the Friday before the current Election Day.

B) Resignation's Following Election Day

Discussion on the issue of an Elected Member resigning shortly after being elected and whether a Local Government should be able to just appoint the next person on the ballot paper rather than holding an Extraordinary Election.

**RESOLVED**

**The above Local Government Election issues be raised with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries as part of the Local Government Act review.**

## **8.2 Proposed alternative to the CA07 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition**

### **Background**

At the December 2018 meeting State Council resolved that WALGA:

1. Opposes withdrawal of the "Letter of Approval" Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition until an acceptable alternative to Local Government is developed;
2. Supports the position that Local Governments not use provision of the Letter of Authority to charge transport operators to access the Restricted Access Vehicle network;
3. Supports the development of standard administrative procedures including fees and letter formats;
4. Supports the practice of Local Governments negotiating maintenance agreements with freight owners/ generators in cases where the operations are predicted to cause extraordinary road damage as determined by the Local Government; and
5. Advocates to Main Roads to establish a stakeholder working group to develop an appropriate mechanism through which the increased infrastructure costs from the use of heavy vehicles and those loaded in excess of limits (concessional loading) can be recovered from those benefiting, and redirected into the cost of road maintenance.

### **Comment**

Main Roads are proposing an alternative to the CA07 condition which will replace the condition with a notification process. They are presenting the proposal to all Regional Road Groups and have requested Local Governments provide feedback through an online survey.

WALGA is establishing a stake holder working group to advise if the proposal is "an acceptable alternative", or to recommend amendments to Main Roads WA and to advise a policy position for State Council consideration. In accordance with the State Council resolution each Zone is invited to nominate a representative to serve on the Group.

Please supply name and contact details before Wednesday, 4 December 2019 to Audra de Pina, Administration Officer, Infrastructure, on (08) 9213 2059 or email AdePina@walga.asn.au

### **CA07 GECZ Working Group**

Nominations were sought from the Great Eastern Country Zone Delegates.

The following nomination was received:

- Cr Stephen Strange                      Shire of Bruce Rock

### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:            Cr Ricky Storer**

**Seconded:      Cr Tony Sachse**

**That the Great Eastern Country Zone appoints Cr Stephen Strange, Shire of Bruce Rock, to be its representative on the CA07 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition.**

**CARRIED**

Background



**INFOPAGE**

**To: CEO** **From: Mark Batty**  
**Organisation: All Local Governments** **Executive Manager Environment & Waste**  
**Date: 15/11/2019**  
**Fax No:** **Pages: 2**  
**Reference: 03-053-01-0001** **Priority: High**

**Subject: Future Drought Fund and the national Drought Response Resilience Plan – Open for comment**

**IN BRIEF:**

Operational Area:	<b>ALL AREAS</b>
Key Issues:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Commonwealth has released its consultation draft on the Drought Resilience Funding Plan.</li> <li>• Submissions on the draft Plan close 13 December 2019</li> <li>• The Fund begins with an initial credit of \$3.9 billion. From 1 July 2020, \$100 million will be made available each year to support Australian farmers and communities.</li> <li>• Funds can be used for communities to prepare for, and become resilient to, the effects of inevitable future drought.</li> <li>• Local Governments can apply for relevant projects</li> </ul>
Action Required:	<p>Complete online survey before Friday, 13 December 2019</p> <p>Provide WALGA with your submission by Friday, 6 December 2019</p>

**How it will work**

**The Future Drought Fund (FDF)** is a key aspect of the Australian Government’s drought policy, which seeks to provide a permanent and secure revenue source to build drought resilience.

The Fund begins with an initial credit of \$3.9 billion. Earnings will be reinvested until the balance reaches \$5 billion (expected in 2028-29). From 1 July 2020, \$100 million will be made available each year to support Australian farmers and communities. Funds can be used to prepare for, and become resilient to, the effects of inevitable future drought.

The FDF will support initiatives that enhance the drought resilience of Australian farms and communities by becoming more prepared to respond to the impacts of drought.

**The Drought Resilience Funding Plan**

The Drought Resilience Funding Plan is a high level framework that seeks to ensure a coherent and consistent approach is undertaken when considering and providing funding for drought resilience projects.

This includes investing in:

- research and innovation
- research adoption and extension
- adopting new and existing technology
- improved environmental and natural resource management
- local and regional infrastructure and community initiatives.

The draft Drought Resilience Funding Plan is available at:-

[haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/future-drought-fund](https://haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/future-drought-fund).

### **Issues and opportunities for Local Governments**

Communities also feel the effects of drought on local economies and community spirit. However, Australia's regions are diverse and the degree of exposure to drought risk depends on the local context. Some communities have a strong resilience during droughts while others are less equipped to deal with the effects of drought.

The risks drought poses to rural communities are varied. They include potential reductions to incomes, job losses, pressure on social networks, poor mental and physical health, along with other climate effects like bushfires. Domestic water resources for rural communities are coming under increasing stress. Without intervention, shortages are likely to become more common.

Drought conditions can reduce tourism, which may affect the local economy. Decline in the amenity value of local communities due to drought—for example, drying water bodies or reduction in green spaces—may also affect tourism opportunities and diminish town pride and community spirit. Drought can also reduce expenditure by farm families in smaller towns, which is an important source of income for many small businesses. Service industries like retail and wholesale trade, transport and storage, finance and machinery are all affected by farmers' spending patterns. A reduction in this spending during a drought can put pressure on the sustainability of the community.

The final design of the fund, and the determination of eligible criteria for fund, will be informed by the consultation phase.

This presents an opportunity for each Local Government to make a submission on the elements it considers important to building the resilience of its community, and that need to be built into the final Drought Resilience funding Plan. Consideration should be given to local and regional community and infrastructure projects.

Submissions can be made on-line at:-

<https://haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/future-drought-fund>

**For further information please contact:** Executive Manager Environment and Waste [Mark Batty](#) or telephone 9213 2078.

**Noted**

## 8.4 Grant Guru

### Background

Provided in the RDA Wheatbelt Update (Item 11.3, attachment 4) was a particular item of interest in regards to GrantGuru.

RDA Wheatbelt and RDA Midwest Gascoyne requested a cross regional proposal for a subscription to the GrantGuru portal. The proposed portal will help councils and communities find grants, be alerted to relevant grants and learn about best practice grant writing so they can win more grants to build their communities.

For individual Local Governments to consider. If there are any interested Local Governments, they can contact the RDA Wheatbelt office and advise.

### Noted

## 8.5 Shire Round-Up

### Background

At the 14 November GECZ Executive Committee meeting it was resolved that:

*The Executive Committee believed it would be good to have an item on the Great Eastern Country Zone Agenda for November 2019 providing each Local Government with an opportunity to provide a brief overview of recent activity at their Shire. i.e. how many new Elected Members, current critical issue or major project.*

**All Zone Local Governments provided a brief overview of recent activities at their Shire including Election results and current projects/issues.**

## 9. ZONE REPORTS

### 9.1 Zone President Report

*By Cr Rhonda Cole*

### RESOLVED

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

## 9.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group

*By Cr Rod Forsyth*

### RESOLUTION

**Moved: Cr Quentin Davies**

**Seconded: Cr Geoff Waters**

**That the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Report be received.**

**CARRIED**

Minutes of the Local Government Freight Group are attached. (Attachment 2)

## 9.3 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee

*By Cr Tony Sachse*

### Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee (Wheatbelt DEMC)

The Wheatbelt DEMC met at the Bilya Koort Boodja Centre for Noongar Culture and Environmental Knowledge in Northam on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2019.

There was a Guest Presentation from Amanda Nardi-Wallace of the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development entitled "Animal Welfare in Emergencies". There is a copy of the presentation attached to this report. Of note is the recommendation that Animal Welfare is included in Local Government LEMA's, if it is not already the case. Please also note that there have been many instances of human life and safety being impacted as a result of animal welfare in emergencies.

There was a second presentation on "Climate Health WA Inquiry. Investigation being undertaken by the Department of Health into the Implications of Climate Change" by Faye Bowman from the Department of Health. The completed paper is due in March 2020 and a copy of the Public Forum is available on their website.

In business arising from previous minutes it was noted that in relation to Telstra backup systems, which the CEO from the Shire of Mount Marshall was able to meet with Alex Taylor (Communications Advisor to the Federal Minister for Telecommunications) in August 2019. To date there has not been any further correspondence since this meeting.

The Wheatbelt DEMC Chair, Superintendent Tony Colfer, and the Executive Officer Yvette Grigg, will work to encourage Local Governments to meet their EM status.

Agenda Items included correspondence from the Rapid Relief Team which includes a letter of offer regarding catering during emergencies. More information is being sought on this.

The Bushfire Seasonal Outlook: Mortlock, Ninghan, Jilbadgie and Avon was presented by DFES. Rainfall from the 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 ranges from Average (Ninghan North east Corner), mostly below average and Very Much Below Average. Maximum Temperature for 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 ranges from Very Much Above Average (Ninghan, Jilbadgie and Eastern parts of Mortlock and Avon) to Highest on Record (Southwest of Mortlock and Western part of Avon). The Keetch-Bryram Drought Index (KBDI) is basically showing that dryness in the top layers of soils and vegetation is about a month earlier than average due to these conditions. The Potential Grassfire Risk ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 shows high for Western part of Avon and mostly moderate to low for Ninghan, Jilbadgie and Mortlock. Rainfall is likely to be below average for October and November, with



daytime temperatures likely to be above average. Hot weather is likely in early October with generally higher night time temperatures.

### Agency Reports

A copy of the report summaries can be found in the attached minutes.

### Meetings

Unfortunately, the last meeting in Merredin did not attract many more attendees. The 2020 meeting venues are yet to be determined, but are likely to be in the west of the district. The dates are set for 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

### **Attachments from this meeting are attached with the Zone Agenda**

- Wheatbelt DEMC Minutes 16 October 2019
- Wheatbelt DEMC Contact List
- Animal Welfare in Emergencies – State Arrangements DPIRD Presentation

### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Cr Sue Meeking**  
**Seconded: Cr Quentin Davies**

**That the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee Report be received.**

**CARRIED**

## **10. WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WALGA)** **BUSINESS**

### **10.1 State Councillor Report**

*Cr Stephen Strange*

#### Road Safety Strategy for WA Beyond 2020

State Council considered WALGA's submission to the Road Safety Council relating to development of the next road safety strategy for Western Australia.

The submission was endorsed and State Council adopted a policy position opposing a blanket reduction in speed limits and reaffirming WALGA's support for the retention of 110km per hour as the default open road speed limit.

#### State Council and Zone Structure and Process Review

State Council considered the Working Group's final report reviewing State Council and Zone structures and processes. State Council endorsed a number of operational recommendations to be implemented immediately and released the report to members for consultation. The Review is the subject of an agenda item in the December State Council agenda.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Cr Ricky Storer**  
**Seconded: Cr Karin Day**

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

## 10.2 WALGA Status Report

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer

### BACKGROUND

Presenting the Status Report for November 2019 which contains WALGA's responses to the resolutions of previous Zone Meetings.

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Great Eastern C	2019 June 27 Zone Agenda Item 12.1 Government Regional Officer Housing	That the Zone request WALGA to advocate on the impact of Government Regional Officer Housing on retaining public sector professionals (Doctors, nurses, teachers) in the Great Eastern Country Zone.	<p>In May 2019, the McGowan Government deferred a planned increase to GROH rents in 2019-20. The next increase of \$30pw was due to come into effect 1 July 2019.</p> <p><a href="https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2019/05/McGowan-Government-temporarily-defers-increase-to-GROH-rents.aspx">https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2019/05/McGowan-Government-temporarily-defers-increase-to-GROH-rents.aspx</a></p> <p>WALGA notes and includes the Zones Recommendation in its advocacy for GROH and greater service support for regional and remote Western Australian Local Governments, acknowledging the importance of this topic in the coming months.</p> <p>WALGA has been advised by WAPOL and the relevant State Government agency who confirm the rental freeze to GROH properties will remain until the completion of the review of the GROH Tenant Rent Setting Framework. Further work has been done in strengthening the partnerships between WAPOL officers and key Local Government officers in specified areas of concerns.</p>	Ongoing	Joanne Burges Executive Manager, People and Place <a href="mailto:jburges@walga.asn.au">jburges@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2018
Great Eastern C	2019 June 27 Zone Agenda Item 7.1 WALGA Advocacy Regarding Greenfinch Mine Expansion	That the Great Eastern Country Zone 1. Supports the Shire of Westonia's position to seek clearing and mining approval for the proposed Greenfinch mining operation. 2. Requests WALGA to raise the issue with relevant authorities to ensure that the Greenfinch Project has every chance of success.	<p>WALGA has liaised with the Shire and also raised it with the Shadow Minister for the Environment.</p> <p>It is understood that a revised clearing application is currently being assessed by the DWER.</p> <p>Ongoing.</p>	November 2019	Mark Batty Executive Manager Environment and Waste <a href="mailto:Mbatty@walga.asn.au">Mbatty@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2078
Grt Eastern C	2018 November 29 Zone Agenda Item 7.4 Water Corporation - New management and billing structure for standpipes	That the Great Eastern Country Zone request WALGA to advocate opposing the WA Water Corporation proposed fee structure in remote parts of the eastern Wheatbelt and;  1. Request the Water Corporation look to possible subsidised billing to remote user standpipes for users without any other possible means of potable water;	Considered by the Infrastructure Policy Team at its March 2019 meeting and further follow-up with Councils requested with feedback to the next meeting.	November 2019	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure <a href="mailto:iduncan@walga.asn.au">iduncan@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2031

		Write to the Department of Water suggesting that as a result of the increased Standpipe water costs that they re-introduce the Farm Water Grants to allow effected landholders the ability to create on-farm water storage and water connections			
<b>Grt Eastern C</b>	<b>2019 March Zone Agenda Item 12.3</b> Telstra – Power Outages Effecting Communications	1. Requests WALGA to advocate through the State Emergency Management Committee for action in respect to power outages effecting telecommunications and the eligibility for Local Governments to turn generators on.	<p>WALGA have written to the SEMC to request action in respect to power outages effecting telecommunications.</p> <p>WALGA have advocated to the SEMC and the SEMC have included this item on their agenda at the meeting to be held 2 August 2019.</p> <p>WALGA tabled this issue at the August SEMC meeting requesting SEMC to formally write to the District Emergency management Committees and to provide WALGA with advice on this matter. SEMC have taken this as an action.</p> <p>The Zone will be provided with a copy of SEMC's response when received.</p> <p>This matter has been officially raised at SEMC, particularly the sector is still awaiting a response.</p>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Joanne Burges</b> Executive Manager, People and Place <a href="mailto:jburges@walga.asn.au">jburges@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2018
<b>Grt Eastern C</b>	<b>2018 November 29 Zone Agenda Item 7.3</b> Container Deposit Scheme Locations	<p>That the Great Eastern Country Zone requests that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Local Governments be guaranteed, as a minimum, one flexible refund point in their area.</li> <li>A flexible access point should be defined as a refund point which, as a minimum, is open 16 hours each two week period, including at least 8 hours at weekends</li> </ol> <p>The State Government provide appropriate funding for the refund points.</p>	Tenders are currently being assessed, with an announcement on the location of refund points envisaged to occur in December 2019.	<b>November 2019 Ongoing</b>	<b>Mark Batty</b> Executive Manager Environment and Waste <a href="mailto:Mbatty@walga.asn.au">Mbatty@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2078
<b>Grt Eastern C</b>	<b>2019 March Zone Agenda Item 12.2</b> Office of the Auditor General (OAG) Audit Fee Increase	The Zone request WALGA to undertake research into the audit costs including why the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) fees have increased significantly and what is the criteria for the fee increases.	<p>WALGA carried out a survey of Local Governments on their experiences with the Office of the Auditor General carrying out financial and performance audits on WA Local Governments.</p> <p>A summary of the survey results were presented to the Zone at the August 2019 Zone meeting.</p> <p>A State Council Agenda item for the December 2019 meeting has been prepared. Please refer to item 5.6</p>	<b>November 2019</b>	<b>Tony Brown</b> Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services 9213 2051 <a href="mailto:tbrown@walga.asn.au">tbrown@walga.asn.au</a>

## **ZONE COMMENT**

This is an opportunity for Member Councils to consider the response from WALGA in respect to the matters that were submitted at the previous Zone Meeting.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Cr Karin Day  
**Seconded:** Cr Glenys Batchelor

**That the Great Eastern Country Zone WALGA November 2019 Status Report be noted.**

## **10.3 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Matters for Decision**

### **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 full State Council Agenda can be found via link: <https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/02b85870-f169-4119-b41c-d388071d8dbc/Agenda-State-Council-4-December-2019.pdf>

The Zone is able to provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation that is then presented to the State Council for consideration.

### **MATTERS FOR DECISION**

#### **5.1 2020-21 State Budget Submission**

##### **WALGA Recommendation**

That WALGA's submission to the State Government in advance of the 2020-21 Budget be endorsed.

*Please refer to attached updated State Government Budget Submission (Agenda attachment 5)*

#### **5.2 Interim Submission - Remote Area Tax Concessions**

##### **WALGA Recommendation**

That WALGA's interim submission to the Productivity Commission's Draft Report into Remote Area Tax Concessions and Payments be endorsed.

#### **5.3 Mandatory Code of Conduct for Council Member, Committee Members and Candidates – Sector Feedback**

##### **WALGA Recommendation**

That WALGA:

1. Request the Mandatory Code of Conduct Working Group be reconvened by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries;
2. Refer the following matters to the Working Group for further consideration:
  - (a) Part B – Behaviours
    - i. ensuring principles of natural justice can be adequately upheld in all circumstances;

- ii. training opportunities that will assist Council Members determine complaint outcomes under Part B;
  - iii. development of a template Complaints Management Policy;
  - iv. reconsider the purpose of allowing 'any person' to make a complaint;
  - v. ensuring Committee Members and Candidates are included in Part B; and
  - vi. re-naming 'Rules' to an appropriate term throughout Part B.
- (b) Part C – Rules of Conduct
- i. review the rationale for creating a new Rule of Conduct breach where three or more breaches of Part B – Behaviours are found and the Local Government resolves to refer the matter to the Local Government Standards Panel; and
  - ii. review the proposal to amend the definition of an 'interest' relating to Impartiality Interests from the present definition in Regulation 11 of the Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations.
3. Recommend the Working Group develop an endorsed Mandatory Code of Conduct for further consultation with the Local Government sector.

#### **5.4 Standards and Guidelines for CEO Recruitment and Selection, Performance Review and Termination – Sector Feedback**

##### **WALGA Recommendation**

That WALGA:

1. Request the CEO Recruitment and Selection, Performance Review and Termination Working Group be reconvened by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries; and
2. Refer the following matters to the Working Group for consideration:
  - (a) Removal from the Model Standards the requirement to readvertise CEO positions after 10 years of continuous service;
  - (b) Encouraging, rather than mandating, the involvement of an independent person in the CEO Recruitment and Selection Process;
  - (c) Reconsideration of the proposal for independent review of the recruitment process;
  - (d) Support the role of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries as the regulator for monitoring and compliance; and
  - (e) Further investigate a role for a Local Government Commissioner.
3. Recommend the Working Group develop endorsed Model Standards for further consultation with the Local Government sector.

#### **5.5 Local Government Financial Ratios**

##### **WALGA Recommendation**

- 1) That WALGA advocate to the Minister for Local Government to amend the Local Government Financial Management Regulations to provide for the following ratios;
  - a. Operating Surplus Ratio
  - b. Debt Service Coverage Ratio
  - c. Asset Sustainability Ratio
  - d. Current Ratio
  - e. Net Financial Liabilities Ratio
- 2) The recommended indicators to the financial ratios be referred to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and the Office of the Auditor General for consideration;

- a) **Operating Surplus Ratio**  
A key indicator of a Local Government's financial performance is the Operating Surplus relative to the operating revenues. A benchmark result of 0% or greater is considered acceptable. Advanced is 15% or above-
- b) **Debt Service Coverage Ratio**  
A Local Government's ability to service debt is measured by the "Debt Service Cover Ratio". This is the measurement of a local government's ability to produce enough cash to cover its debt payments. A Basic standard is achieved if the ratio is greater than or equal to 2. An Advanced standard is achieved if the ratio is greater than 5
- c) **Asset Sustainability Ratio**  
Measures capital expenditure on renewal or replacement of assets, relative to depreciation expense. Standard is met if the ratio can be measured and is 90% (or 0.90) Standard is improving if this ratio is between 90% and 110% (or 0.90 and 1.10)
- d) **Current Ratio**  
Liquidity refers to how quickly and cheaply an asset can be converted into cash. A Local Government's liquidity is measured by the "Current Ratio". This ratio provides information on the ability of a Local Government to meet its short-term financial obligations out of unrestricted current assets. Standard is met if the ratio can be measured and is at least 90%. Standard is improving if this ratio is between 90% and 110%.
- e) **Net Financial Liabilities Ratio**  
An indicator of the extent to which the net financial liabilities of a Local Government can be serviced by its operating revenues. Target < 60% per annum.

## **5.6 Local Government Audits**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

That WALGA;

- 1) Write to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) advising of the cost increases to the Local Government sector in respect to financial audits over the first 2 years of OAG audits and request constraint on audit cost increases in the future.
- 2) Write to the Minister for Local Government seeking formal commitment that Performance Audits carried out by the Office of the Auditor General are the responsibility of the State Government.

## **5.7 Review of State Council and Zone Structure and Processes – Working Group Report and Recommendations**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

That:

1. The Working Group's Final Report, and State Council's prior endorsement of Recommendations 5, 6, 7, and 8 from the Working Group's Final Report, be noted; and,
2. Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, and 10, from the Working Group's Final Report be endorsed.

## **5.8 Membership of Development Assessment Panels**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

That WALGA advocate to the Minister for Planning, that the composition of Development Assessment Panels (DAPs) be modified to provide equal representation of technical advice and local knowledge, in accordance with the original objectives of the DAP system to enhance the decision making process by improving the balance of experts.

## **5.9 Interim Submission – Draft State Planning Policy 3.6 – Infrastructure Contributions**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

1. That the interim submission to the WA Planning Commission on draft State Planning Policy 3.6 – Infrastructure Contributions, be endorsed.
2. That the West Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) be advised that the proposed cap on community infrastructure contributions is strongly opposed and without the removal of this proposed cap, WALGA does not support draft State Planning Policy 3.6 – Infrastructure Contributions.

## **5.10 Local Government as Collection Agency for Construction Training Fund**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

1. That WALGA advise the Construction Training Fund (CTF):
  - 1.1 That due to the operational improvements and establishment of an on-line portal for payments of the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund, Local Government will not continue to be a collection agency for these payments
  - 1.2 That the online receipt issued upon payment of the *Building and Construction Industry Training Fund*, must clearly show the property address and estimated building value to ensure it complies with section 20 of the *Building Act 2011*
  - 1.3 That the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) must provide access to the data collated in the Building Permit Database Project to assist CTF in their acquittal process, and
  - 1.4 That a review of the apprenticeship pathways should be undertaken, as the Local Government sector can provide many potential apprentice pathways directly connected to the construction and development industry.
2. That WALGA advise the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Education & Training and Minister for Commerce that the current CTF collection process is unnecessary administrative red tape for the Local Government sector, and seek their support for Local Government to not continue to be a collection agency for these payments.

## **5.11 Interim Submission - Public Health Regulations Review Discussion Papers**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

That the interim submissions provided to the Department of Health on the following discussion papers be endorsed:

1. Managing public health risks at events in WA
2. Management of public health risks related to offensive trade in WA
3. Managing the public health risks associated with cooling towers and warm water systems in WA
4. A new regulatory framework for managing drinking water in WA

## **5.12 Reforms to the Building Approval Process for Single Residential Buildings in Western Australia**

## **WALGA Recommendation**

That WALGA:

1. Advise the Department of Mines Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) that Option 3 of the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement, improvements to the single residential building approvals process, is supported in principle, subject to the following matters being addressed in consultation with the Local Government sector:
  - a) Prior to any regulatory changes, a review of the building fees and charges is essential, to ensure that any costs associated with the approval of building work, implementation of mandatory inspections, compliance and enforcement actions, and record keeping requirements for the Local Government sector, will result in full cost recovery
  - b) The Independent Building Surveyor who signed the Certificate of Design Compliance should be responsible for undertaking the inspections, therefore, Local Government would not be solely responsible for mandatory inspections
  - c) The State Government's registration process for the Builder should be strengthened to ensure that the builder fulfils their obligations for compliance with the National Construction Code
  - d) Implementation of mandatory inspections should be undertaken by properly qualified and independent personnel, at the following stages (at a minimum) of the construction process
    1. Foundations and footings
    2. Slab/reinforcement of bearers/joists
    3. Waterproofing
    4. Roof, and
    5. Occupancy or final completion
  - e) The occupancy or final completion inspection must ensure that the bushfire construction and energy efficiency requirements have been complied with, and
  - f) The removal of the proposed 'fast track approval' concept, as is not warranted nor properly justified as an improvement option.
2. Endorse the submission of this State Council report to the DMIRS, as the Association's submission on the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement.

### **5.13 Wheatbelt Regional Health Services**

#### **WALGA Recommendation**

That WALGA:

1. Re-establishes a working group to progress a Memorandum of Understanding with Local Governments in the Wheatbelt region and the WA Country Health Service, based on the previous work by the former Wheatbelt Health MOU Group, which outlines communication, responsibilities and strategic priorities unique to the region; and
2. Work with key service providers and stakeholders to engage with Local Government to further discuss the issues and develop solutions in the aged care services sector.

### **5.14 Interim Submission to the Climate Health WA Inquiry**

#### **WALGA Recommendation**

That the WALGA interim submission to the Climate Health WA Inquiry be endorsed.

### **5.15 Submission on the Climate Change in Western Australia Issues Paper**

#### **WALGA Recommendation**



That the WALGA submission on the Climate Change in Western Australia Issues Paper be endorsed.

#### **5.16 Interim Submission – Policy and Application Guidelines for Speed Zoning**

##### **WALGA Recommendation**

The interim submission to Main Roads WA on the Policy and Application Guidelines for Speed Zoning be endorsed.

#### **5.17 Interim Submission – Response to the Select Committee on Northern Australia**

##### **WALGA Recommendation**

That WALGA's interim submission to the Select Committee on the effectiveness of the Australian Government's Northern Australia agenda be endorsed.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Cr Tony Sachse**

**Seconded: Cr Karin Day**

**That the Great Eastern Country Zone supports all Matters for Decision en bloc as listed above in the State Council Agenda with the exception of Item 5.5 to be amended to read as follows:**

#### **5.5 Local Government Financial Ratios**

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the item be deferred and that WALGA form a sector reference group to further review the ratios and provide recommendations to the March 2020 State Council meeting.**

**CARRIED**

<b>10.4 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Matters for Noting / Information</b>
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- 6.1 Ministerial Review of State IR System**
- 6.2 Action Plan for Planning Reform**
- 6.3 Parliamentary Inquiry into Short Stay Accommodation – Final Report**
- 6.4 Draft State Planning Policy 7.2: Precinct Design – Submission**
- 6.5 Managing Public Health Risks Associated with Pesticides in WA**
- 6.6 Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group**
- 6.7 Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) Program**
- 6.8 WALGA Emergency Management Engagement Project**
- 6.9 WALGA Submission to the Inquiry into 5G in Australia**
- 6.10 WALGA Comments on the Environmental Offsets Framework Review Report**
- 6.11 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC)**

## 10.5 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Organisational Reports

### ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

- 7.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Environment and Waste Unit
- 7.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Governance and Organisational Services
- 7.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure
- 7.1.4 Report on Key Activities, People and Place

## 10.6 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Policy Forum Reports

### 7.2 Policy Forum Reports

- 7.2.1 Mayors/Presidents Policy Forum
- 7.2.2 Mining Community Policy Forum
- 7.2.3 Container Deposit Legislation Policy Forum
- 7.2.4 Economic Development Forum

## 10.7 WALGA President's Report

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

### RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Karin Day  
Seconded: Cr Wayne Della Bosca

That the Great Eastern Country Zone notes the following reports contained in the WALGA State Council Agenda.

- Matters for Noting/Information
- Organisational Reports
- Policy Forum Reports; and
- WALGA President's Report

**CARRIED**

## 11. AGENCY REPORTS

### 11.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Jennifer Collins from the Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries provided an update to the Zone. Please see link below for the update:

[Zone Update from DLGSC](#)

It is also noted that a Representative from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries will attend the March 2020 Zone meeting and provide a 20 minutes presentation on relevant key projects.

For future meetings of the Great Eastern Country Zone a Representative from the Department of Local Government will continue to attend and provide a 10 minutes presentation on matters of interest at each meeting and Zone delegates are invited to provide topics of interest to the Zone Executive Officer prior to each meeting Agenda deadline to allow the Department to source information as required for the next meeting.

## **11.2 Main Roads Western Australia**

Mr Craig Manton was an apology for this meeting and Janet Hartley-West provided an update to the Zone.

## **11.3 Wheatbelt RDA**

An update on the Wheatbelt RDAW was attached in the Agenda.

## **11.4 Wheatbelt Development Commission**

Gavin Robins Acting CEO and Kristen Twine provided an update to the Zone.

## **12. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

Office of Mia Davies MLA – Kathleen Brown, put forward Mia Davies, MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt apologies and raised no issues.

## **13. EMERGING ISSUES**

### 13.1 Sports Infrastructure Forum

The Zone requested the secretariat to obtain feedback and report back to the Zone on the outcomes of the Sports Infrastructure Forum. This information will be provided to the Zone when received.

## **14. URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil

## **15. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

The Great Eastern Country Zone meetings have been endorsed by the Executive Committee and are listed below:

Please note that the August Zone meeting is proposed to be Tuesday 25 August to not clash with the Dowerin Field Day in 2020.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS  
GREAT EASTERN COUNTRYZONE 2020

Zone Meeting Dates	Time	HOST LOCATION	State Council Meeting Dates 2020
<b>26 February</b>	Wednesday 10am	Shire of Kellerberrin	Wednesday 4 March 2020
<b>30 April</b>	Thursday 10am	Shire of Merredin	Wednesday 6 May 2020
<b>25 June</b>	Thursday 10am	Shire of Kellerberrin	Wednesday 1 July 2020
<b>25 August</b>	Tuesday 10am	Shire of Merredin	Regional Meeting 3-4 September 2020
<b>26 November</b>	Thursday 10am	Shire of Kellerberrin	Wednesday 2 December 2020

Action: Zone Members to be canvassed on changing the February 2020 meeting to Wednesday 26 February instead of Thursday 27 February.

A further consideration by Zone Members to be canvassed is the change of start time for all meetings to be 10am.

**Noted**

**16. CLOSURE**

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12.10pm.

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