



Northern Country Zone

MINUTES

Monday 23 November 2020

Hosted by the Shire of Mingenew
Mingenew Sports Pavilion
commencing at 10am



1.	OPENING, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	3
1.1	Opening	3
1.2	Acknowledgment of Country	3
1.3	Welcome	3
1.4	Announcements	4
2.	ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES	4
3.	DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS.....	5
3.1	WALGA (10:05am – 10:25am).....	5
3.2	Tennis West (10:25am – 10:45am).....	7
3.3	DLGSC (10:45am – 10:55am)	7
3.4	WALGA (10:55am - 11:00am)	7
4.	DECLARATION OF INTEREST	7
5.	ADJOURNED BUSINESS.....	8
6.	MINUTES.....	8
6.1	Confirmation of Minutes	8
6.2	Business Arising from Minutes.....	8
6.2.1	For Noting - NCZ Flying Minute 200923 – Local Government Review Panel Final Report.....	8
6.2.2	Coordinated Corella Control Working Group – Second Call for Membership	10
7.	STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION.....	11
7.1	(5.1) Local Government Act Review Advocacy Paper – Key Issues From Recent Inquiries into Local Government (05-034-01-0001 TL)	11
7.2	(5.2) Submission – Registration of Building Engineers in WA (05-015-02-0010 VJ)	12
7.3	(5.3) Family and Domestic Violence and the Role of Local Governments (05-086-03-0004 MM)	12
7.4	(5.4) Underground Power (05-049-02-0001 ID).....	13
7.5	(5.5) CEO Recruitment and Selection, Performance Review and Termination Standards Regulations (05-034-01-0001 JM)	14
7.6	(5.6) Model Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates Regulations (05-034-01-0001 JM).....	15
8.	STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION.....	16
8.1	(6.1) Submission to the Infrastructure WA State Infrastructure Strategy Discussion Paper (05-085-03-0001 DM).....	16
8.2	(6.2) Draft Amendments to the Planning and Development (Local Planning Scheme) Regulations 2015 (05-047-01-0017 VJ)	17
8.3	(6.3) Interim Review – State Planning Policy 3.1 Residential Design Codes (05-015-02-0002 CH)	17
8.4	(6.4) State and Federal Budgets (05-088-03-0001 DM)	18
8.5	(6.5) Noongar Heritage Agreement for Local Government (05-032-01-0001 SM).....	18
8.6	(6.6) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill Consultation (05-032-01-0001 SM).....	19
8.7	(6.7) Local Government Animal Welfare in Emergencies Grant Program (06-081-01-0001 EDR).....	19
8.8	(6.8) 2020 Annual General Meeting (01-003-02-0003 TL).....	19
8.9	(6.9) COVID-19 - Update	20
9.0	REPORTS	20
9.1	Zone Chair/State Councillor’s Report November 2020	20
9.2	WALGA President’s Report	21
9.3	Zone Status Report.....	22
9.4	Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group Report.....	22
9.5	CA07 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition Working Group	22
10.	ZONE MATTERS FOR NOTING/DECISION.....	23
10.1	Correspondence	23
10.1.1	Correspondence Out.....	23
10.1.2	Correspondence In.....	23
10.2	Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 30 October 2020	24
10.3	Meeting Dates 2021.....	25
11.	GENERAL BUSINESS.....	26
11.1	Regional Issues	26
11.1.1	School Bus Routes.....	26
11.2	Regional Tourism Initiatives.....	27
11.3	Other General Business	27
12.	DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING.....	28
13.	MEETING CLOSURE.....	28

ATTACHMENTS TO THE AGENDA

- Item 6: Minutes Northern Country Zone Meeting 24 August 2020
- Item 6.2.1: Flying Minute 200923
Flying Minute 200923 Result
- Item 6.2.2: Coordinated Corella Control Working Group Terms of Reference; and
Nomination Form
- Item 7&8: Agenda State Council Meeting 2 December 2020
- Item 9.2: WALGA Presidents Report
- Item 9.3: Zone Status Report
- Item 10.1.1: Correspondence Out – NCZ Email to all WALGA Zones re LG Review Panel Final Report
Email Attachment - Copy of NCZ Resolution at Item 7.5 of 24/08/2020 Meeting Agenda
- Item 10.1.2 (a): Correspondence In - Email from Jodie Holbrook DLGSC with link to Local Matters Newsletter
Email Attachment - Community Resilience Scorecard Midwest
Email Attachment - Community Resilience Scorecard Wheatbelt
- Item 10.1.2 (b): Correspondence In – Email from Robert Dew detailing the resolution of the Avon-Midland
Country Zone regarding the LG Review Panel Final Report
- Item 10.1.2.(c) Correspondence In – Email from Bruce Whittber detailing the outcome of the Central Country
Zones’ discussion regarding the LG Review Panel Final Report
Email Attachment – Central Country Zone 28 August 2020 Minutes
- Item 10.1.2 (d) Correspondence In – Email from M Degebrodt containing link to full Minutes WALGA State
Council Meeting 2 September 2020
Email Attachment – Summary Minutes State Council Meeting 2 September 2020
- Item 10.1.2 (e) Correspondence In – Email from M Degebrodt with WALGA AGM Agenda and 19-20 Annual
Report
Email Attachment – Agenda WALGA AGM 25 September 2020
Email Attachment – 2019-2020 WALGA Annual Report
- Item 10.1.2 (f) Correspondence In – Email from Cr Karen Chappel re Wildflower Friendliness Rating
Scheme
- Item 10.1.2 (g) Correspondence In – Email from M Degebrodt with Minutes WALGA AGM 25 September
2020
Email Attachment – Minutes WALGA AGM 25 September 2020
- Item 10.1.2 (h) Correspondence In – Email from RDA Midwest outlining the highlights of the Federal Budget
for regional Australia
- Item 10.1.2 (i) Correspondence in – Email from B Plug Shire of Perenjori listing new Councillors
- Item 10.2 Bank Statements Aug/Sep/Oct 2020

1. OPENING, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1.1 Opening

The Meeting was declared open at 10 am.

1.2 Acknowledgment of Country

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA acknowledges the Yamatji people, who are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet and pays its respects to their Elders past and present.

1.3 Welcome

The Chair welcomed members and guests and made special mention that it was good to see the Shire of Perenjori back at the table, being represented by newly elected President, Cr Chris King.

1.4 Announcements

The Chair announced the Covid-19 rules for the meeting.

COVID-19 Rules

As of 27 June 2020, Phase 4 of relaxed COVID-19 restrictions took effect in WA, which means that the total number of people at a gathering can't exceed more than 1 person per 2 square metres. The Sports Pavilion at Mingenew has a capacity of 70 based on those numbers. Please note that social distancing (stay at least 1.5 metres from others where possible) and good hygiene still apply. People displaying any cold or flu symptoms should not attend the meeting.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

MEMBERS

NB: One Voting Delegate from each Member Council

Shire of Carnamah	Mr Vincent Fordham Lamont – Chief Executive Officer - Proxy
Shire of Chapman Valley	Mr Maurice Battilana – Chief Executive Officer - Proxy Mr Simon Lancaster – Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Coorow	Cr Moira Girando - President Mr John Merrick - Acting Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
City of Greater Geraldton	Cr Tahleah Thomas - Deputy Mayor (NCZ Deputy Chair)
Shire of Irwin	Cr Mike Smith - President Cr Ian West Mr Shane Ivers - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Mingenew	Cr Gary Cosgrove, President Mr Nils Hay - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Morawa	Cr Karen Chappel - President Mr John Van Der Meer – Acting Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Northampton	Cr Craig Simkin - President Mr Garry Keeffe - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Perenjori	Cr Chris King - President Mr Mario Romeo – Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Three Springs	Mr Keith Woodward - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
EXECUTIVE	Ms Dianne Daniels – NCZ Executive Officer Tim Lane – WALGA Manager Strategy & Association Governance Garry Middle – WALGA Acting Manager Environment Policy Samantha Adams – WALGA Roadwise Regional Road Safety Advisor
INVITED GUESTS	
Member for Moore	Mr Shane Love MLA

Member for Agricultural Region Hon. Laurie Graham MLC

Mid West Development Commission Mr Gavin Treasure - Chief Executive Officer

Dept of Local Government Sport & Cultural Ind Mr Simon Barrass – Acting Regional Manager Mid West Gascoyne

Main Roads WA Mr Bernie Miller – Regional Manager Mid West-Gascoyne

Tennis West Ms Olivia Birkett – Places to Play and Government Relations Manager
Mr Craig Vinci – Regional Tennis Manager, North

APOLOGIES

Shire of Carnamah Cr Merle Isbister – President
Cr Dwayne Wooltorton – Deputy President

Shire of Chapman Valley Cr Anthony Farrell – President
Cr Kirra Warr – Deputy President

City of Greater Geraldton Mayor Shane Van Styn
Mr Ross McKim – Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Three Springs Cr Chris Lane - President

Regional Development Midwest Gascoyne Ms Yvonne Messina – Chair
Mr Mark Holdsworth – Director of Regional Development/Executive Officer

Member for Agricultural Region Hon. Martin Aldridge MLC

Member for Agricultural Region Hon. Darren West MLC

DLGSC Ms Jodie Holbrook – Director Local Government Policy and Engagement

WALGA Mayor Tracey Roberts JP - President

3. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

3.1 WALGA (10:05am – 10:25am)

Mr Garry Middle Acting Manager Environment Policy

Mr Middle spoke to the report below.

Wildflower Friendliness Rating Scheme:

This is the second year that this scheme has been offered by Hon Paul Papalia, Minister for Tourism. The Scheme has been developed by his office in collaboration with the Wildflower Society of Western Australia (WSWA) and revised in September 2020.

The press release for the Scheme this year notes that the “rating scheme will identify, acknowledge and reward local governments that are 'wildflower friendly' and are working to protect wildflowers along road verges in their area.” This statement speaks to the criticisms that many Local Governments had of the Scheme in 2019: it is not a scheme that rates how significant the wildflowers are in a Local Government area for tourism but is an assessment of a Local Government’s policies, procedures and management efforts to protect wildflowers in road reserves. This scheme favours larger Local Governments who can allocate significant resources to policy development and management.

The Scheme has a star rating system, and any local governments that achieved in 2019 a 3-star rating or above would be promoted by Tourism WA during the 2020 wildflower season as ‘wildflower friendly’. Only one Local Government of the six that completed the 2019 survey questionnaire achieved a 3-star rating or above in 2019 and that was Shire of Merredin????

We were contacted by Minister Papalia’s office in August 2020 to see if WALGA could assist with making the scheme more effective for 2020. Given the concerns expressed by Local Governments about the Scheme in 2019, that the Minister has committed to proceed with the Scheme again this year, and that it was considered as an opportunity to gain free promotion for some Local Governments, two WALGA representatives met with the Minister’s office and sought improvements to the Scheme.

The assessment methodology has been improved because of WALGA’s involvement to focus more on the wildflower tourism potential rather than policy, procedures and management of roadside vegetation. The revised 2020 criteria retain the 2019 criteria recognising the tourism potential of some roadside vegetation, but extends the criteria to include Local Government managed reserves and it allocates scoring more evenly across the criteria. Not all changes recommended by WALGA staff were implemented and the revised scheme represents a compromise. Further, the Minister has agreed to establish a panel to carry out the assessments, with a range of expertise on it, including WALGA, to reduce any bias in assessment.

After delivering a summary of the report to the meeting, Mr Middle said that the question to all local governments was, do you want to be involved in the process and if not, what do you want to do; If you want to be involved, then WALGA will continue to work with the Ministers’ office to get the best outcome for local government.

Chair Cr Chappel asked Mr Middle if there had been any consultation with local government, with Mr Middle responding that as WALGA had been engaged late in the review process, they didn’t have time to consult with local government. An officer who had experience in the field was nominated to engage with the Ministers’ Office.

The Chair called for questions/comments from the floor.

Mr Nils Hay noted that he had been to a Tourism WA event last week and that the Scheme had not been mentioned. At the last meeting of Wildflower Country Inc it had been decided to come up with an alternative proposal that would be more effective for regional local governments.

Cr Girando noted that the Shire of Coorow had looked at the scheme and it was still heavily weighted to the Wildflower Society dictating to local government and that it was focusing on infrastructure and systems, not wildflowers. The Shire of Coorow will not be responding to the survey.

Mr Maurice Battilano noted that the Shire of Chapman Valley will be ignoring the survey.

Cr Ian West stated that the wildflowers were often only on the road reserves because they had been worked by council machines.

Chair Cr Chappel suggested that Councils need to work through Wildflower Country Inc in coordination with WALGA so that the next reiteration of the scheme is more favourable to local government.

3.2 Tennis West (10:25am – 10:45am)

Ms Olivia Birkett Places to Play and Government Relations Manager

Ms Birkett introduced Craig Vinci, who is the Regional Tennis Manager North, based in Geraldton.

She then gave a presentation of Tennis Wests' new Strategic Plan and Thriving Tennis Communities pillars, which demonstrate how closely Tennis West would like to work with Local Government.

A copy of the Power Point presentation is attached to the minutes.

3.3 DLGSC (10:45am – 10:55am)

Mr Simon Barrass Acting Regional Manager Mid West Gascoyne

Mr Barrass gave an update on topical issues and DLGSC funding opportunities.

The Department is seeking feedback on the draft Model Standards for CEO Recruitment, Performance Review and Termination. The closing date for submissions is 6 December 2020.

Culture and Arts grants funding information is on the DLGSC website and small grants (under \$300k), from the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund, will be opening on 3 February 2021 and closing 31 March 2021.

Mr Barrass attended the Dwellingup Trails Forum last week and was impressed by what trails can do for a community – the Trails Hub with adjoining café was vibrant and attracting people to the area.

In closing, Mr Barrass noted that Mr Richard Malacari, who until recently had been the DLGSC Regional Manager Mid West Gascoyne, had started a new position with the Department of Justice in Perth and that the DLGSC was going through the recruitment process for a new Regional Manager.

The Chair asked the Executive Officer to send a letter of thanks to Mr Malacari for his support to the Zone.

3.4 WALGA (10:55am - 11:00am)

Samantha Adams Roadwise Regional Road Safety Advisor, Mid West

Ms Adams gave a brief snapshot of specific road safety statistics in the Northern Country Zone region, noting that the Midwest crash numbers had dropped over the last eight years due to improved roads, peoples changed attitudes and a focus by local government on road safety.

She congratulated the Shire of Morawa for their nomination in the 2021 State Road Safety Awards.

In closing, Ms Adams offered her services to help members in any area of road safety.

4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Pursuant to our Code of Conduct, Councillors must declare to the Chairperson any potential conflict of interest they have in a matter before the Zone as soon as they become aware of it. Councillors and deputies may be directly or indirectly associated with some recommendations of the Zone and State Council. If you are affected by these recommendations, please excuse yourself from the meeting and do not participate in deliberations.

Nil

5. ADJOURNED BUSINESS

Nil

6. MINUTES

Attachments: Minutes of the Meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA 24 August 2020

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 24 August 2020 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Girando

Seconded: Cr Cosgrove

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 24 August 2020 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

6.2 Business Arising from Minutes

6.2.1 For Noting - NCZ Flying Minute 200923 – Local Government Review Panel Final Report

Prepared by: Dianne Daniels – Executive Officer

*Attachment: Flying Minute 200923;
Flying Minute 200923 Result*

Please note, the Item below was emailed to all members and delegates on 16/09/2020 as a Flying Minute following discussion at the 24/08/2020 NCZ meeting re Item 7.5 of the State Council Agenda - Local Government Review Panel Final Report, to ascertain if NCZ members wanted to present a zone position. Voting closed on 23/09/2020 and the result was emailed to all on 24/09/2020.

Recommendation:

The EO makes no recommendation on this item, but requests that a voting delegate from each member Council votes on one of the following options:

In regard to the Local Government Review Panel Final Report:

- 1. NCZ to hold a Special Meeting in October (date to be decided) to work through the Review Panel Final Report and prepare a unified NCZ position;*
- 2. Each Council to email their position to the NCZ Executive officer for collation (by 16 October 2020). Once collated, this will be forwarded to WALGA as the Zone position (please note that the EO feels that this could become cumbersome as Councils may have very different views on the various Panel recommendations);*
- 3. Each individual Council to advise WALGA of their position, as per point 3 in the State Council resolution at Agenda Item 5.5 State Council Meeting 2 September 2020.*

Background:

Despite many Zones requesting that Agenda Item 5.5 Local Government Review Panel Final Report of the State Council 2 September 2020 meeting be deferred until the December 2020 State Council meeting to give members time to give the Panel Report the consideration it deserves, the motion to do so was lost. That motion and the motion that was carried are shown below:

MOTION

Moved: President Cr Karen Chappel

Seconded: Cr Catherine Ehrhardt

Defer the item until further member consultation and refer back for consideration at the December 2020 State Council Meeting.

LOST

MOTION

Moved: Cr Paul Kelly

Seconded: President Cr Karen Chappel

That WALGA:

1. Acknowledges the panel report and the recommendations received from Zones and continue to work with the Government to undertake further consultation on the recommendations contained therein;
2. Requests a formal commitment from the Minister for Local Government that the local Government Sector be consulted on the Draft Local Government Bill in line with the State/Local Government Partnership Agreement and that WALGA actively participates in the legislative drafting process to develop the new Local Government Act; and
3. Strongly encourages individual Local Governments to consider responding to the recommendations of the panel report and advise WALGA of their submissions by 31 October 2020.

Comment:

Despite the motion to defer Item 5.5 being lost at State Council, The Northern Country Zone may still consider it appropriate to present a unified position to WALGA.

Result:

Seven member councils responded with three voting for Option 1, one voting for Option 2 and three voting for Option 3, as shown in the table below:

Option	Council Response	Notes
1. NCZ to hold a Special Meeting in October (date to be decided) to work through the Review Panel Final Report and prepare a unified NCZ position;	City of Greater Geraldton Shire of Northampton Shire of Perenjori	All councils noted that nothing precludes them making their own submission to the Minister for Local Government
2. Each Council to email their position to the NCZ Executive officer for collation (by 16 October 2020). Once collated, this will be forwarded to WALGA as the Zone position (please note that the EO feels that this could become cumbersome as Councils may have very different views on the various Panel recommendations);	Shire of Mingenew	Shire of Mingenew noted that they could still make an independent submission to the Department.
3. Each individual Council to advise WALGA of their position, as per point 3 in the State Council resolution at Agenda Item 5.5 State Council Meeting 2 September 2020.	Shire of Carnamah Shire of Three Springs Shire of Chapman Valley	It was noted that each council would submit their review direct to the Minister for Local Government.

As there was no overwhelming call by members of the Zone to meet and work out a Zone position, or for the EO to collate individual Council's responses and present it to WALGA as a Zone Position, Option 3 won by default.

Individual Councils' positions have been emailed to members as follows: The Shires of Chapman Valley, Northampton and Morawa on 2/10/20; Shire of Mingenew on 22/10/2020; and City of Greater Geraldton on 30/10/2020.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Cosgrove

Seconded: Cr Thomas

That the results of Flying Minute 200923 be noted.

Carried

6.2.2 Coordinated Corella Control Working Group – Second Call for Membership

Prepared By: Dianne Daniels

Attachments: Coordinated Corella Control Working Group Terms of Reference; and Nomination Form

Recommendation:

1. That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA forms a Coordinated Corella Control Working Group comprised of the following four members: *(to be determined at the November 23 NCZ meeting)*

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....
- 4.....

Or: (Alternative Recommendation If Four Nominations Not Received)

2. That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA does not form a Coordinated Corella Control Working Group, as the number of nominations for membership received is less than the four called for in the Terms of Reference.

Background:

Further to Item 6.2.2 of the 24 August 2020 Northern Country Zone meeting, in which delegates resolved to 1. Form a Working Group to progress the regional control of Corellas and 2. Advocate, through WALGA, for a state-wide strategy for the control of mobile pest species, including corellas, the following actions have been taken:

- a) A Draft Terms of Reference for the Coordinated Corella Control Working Group was circulated by email on 25 August 2020. Seven out of ten members voted and all of those who participated voted yes to the Draft Terms of Reference. The endorsed Terms of Reference are attached; and
- b) A call for nominations for membership was circulated by email on 16 September 2020 with a closing date of 30 September 2020. Two nominations were received – Cr Moira Girando, President of the Coorow Shire and Cr Chris Connaughton, Deputy President of the Three Springs Shire.

Comment:

As the Terms of Reference calls for four members on the Coordinated Corella Control Working Group, we are two members short and the Chair thought it would be reasonable to put out a second call at this meeting to fill those two places.

Nominations will be limited to one Delegate per Northern Country Zone member. Cr Girando and Cr Connaughton do not need to nominate again – their nominations will be included in the consideration of nominees at the meeting. A Nomination Form is attached to the agenda and can be forwarded to the Executive Officer prior to the 23 November meeting, or handed to her at the meeting, prior to its commencement.

If there are more than four nominees, including Cr Girando and Cr Connaughton, then a secret ballot will take place to decide the four members.

If there are exactly four nominees, including Cr Girando and Cr Connaughton, then those four nominees will be the founding members of the Coordinated Corella Control Working Group.

If there are less than four nominees, including Cr Girando and Cr Connaughton, then the Working Group will not be formed.

The Chair called for nominations from the floor, receiving one from Councillor King, but no others and so Chair Cr Chappel nominated.

Cr Simkin noted that there was not a Corella issue in Northampton and so it was reasonable that the Working Group was made up of members from Councils where there was a problem.

Cr Cosgrove also confirmed that there wasn't a Corella issue in Mingenew.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Thomas

Seconded: Cr Cosgrove

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA forms a Coordinated Corella Control Working Group comprised of the following four members:

Cr Moira Girando – Shire of Coorow
Cr Chris Connaughton – Shire of Three Springs
Cr Chris King – Shire of Perenjori
Cr Karen Chappel – Shire of Morawa

Carried

7. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION

The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 2 December 2020.

The Matters for Decision in the State Council agenda are numbered 5.1 to 5.4

The Recommendation and Brief only have been included. Please refer to the attached PDF version of the State Council Agenda for more detail.

7.1 (5.1) Local Government Act Review Advocacy Paper – Key Issues From Recent Inquiries into Local Government (05-034-01-0001 TL)

By Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services

Recommendation:

That:

1. Ongoing advocacy relating to the Review of the *Local Government Act 1995* be noted; and,
2. The Advocacy Positions for a New Local Government Act: *Key issues from recent Inquiries into Local Government* – be endorsed.

Executive Summary:

- WALGA has developed an Advocacy Paper focusing on key issues identified in final reports of three recent Local Government Inquiries:
 1. [Final Report of the Local Government Review Panel](#)
 2. [Report of the Inquiry into the City of Perth](#)
 3. [Select Committee into Local Government Final Report](#)
- The Advocacy Paper aims to highlight strategic policy issues, leveraging previous detailed policy development work, at a key stage of Phase two of the Review of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Simkin

Seconded: Cr Cosgrove

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.1.

Carried

7.2 (5.2) Submission – Registration of Building Engineers in WA (05-015-02-0010 VJ)

By Vanessa Jackson, Policy Manager Planning and Improvement

Recommendation:

That WALGA:

1. Advise the Department of Mines Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) that the registration of Building Engineers in WA is supported.
2. Request that DMIRS also consider the registration of Electrical Engineers, Façade Engineers, Energy Assessors, Bush Fire Consultants, Access consultants, Swimming pool, Patio installers and Demolition contractors.
3. Request that DMIRS clarify that dilapidation reports may only be undertaken by Registered Engineers.
4. Provide this report to Department of Mines Industry Regulation and Safety as feedback on the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement.

Executive Summary:

- In July 2020, Department of Mines Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) released a Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement (CRIS) focused on the registration of Building Engineers in WA.
- Broad support is provided as the registration of technical experts has been advocated by the Association for many years. Additional registration of professionals and businesses is also requested to assist in improving the quality of buildings and professional standards in WA.
- Submissions on the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement closes on the 3 December 2020

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr King

Seconded: Cr Smith

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.2.

Carried

7.3 (5.3) Family and Domestic Violence and the Role of Local Governments (05-086-03-0004 MM)

By Marissa MacDonald, Acting Policy Manager Community

Recommendation:

That:

1. WA Local Governments recognise the prevalence, seriousness and preventable nature of family and domestic violence and the roles that Local Governments can play in addressing gender equity and promoting respectful relationships in their local community.
2. WALGA advocates to the State Government:
 - a. to define and communicate the role, responsibilities and expectations of Local Governments in family and domestic violence.
 - b. for adequate funding for family and domestic violence programs and services, particularly in regional areas.
 - c. for appropriate resources and funding be allocated to Local Governments to implement any particular roles and actions addressing family and domestic violence as defined in the State Strategy.
 - d. to provide support to Local Government in the broader rollout of the Prevention Toolkit for Local Government.
 - e. to continue advocacy to the Commonwealth Government for additional funding and support.
3. WALGA organises presentations for Local Governments that address family and domestic violence, as part of relevant events or webinars.

Executive Summary:

- WALGA received two separate requests from the South West Country Zone in March 2019 and the East Metropolitan Zone in November 2019 to analyse the role of Local Governments in addressing family and domestic violence.
- A discussion paper was prepared in response to the Zone requests which encompassed the roles of all three levels of Government and comparison across States and Territories as well as Local Government Associations.
- The analysis in the discussion paper recommends that WALGA should strengthen advocacy efforts, including updating the outdated 2011 WALGA State Council endorsed policy position.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr King

Seconded: Proxy Fordham Lamont

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.3.

Carried

7.4 (5.4) Underground Power (05-049-02-0001 ID)

By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager, Infrastructure and Roads

Recommendation:

That Local Government supports the:

1. continuation of cooperative arrangements between the State Government, Western Power and Local Government to progressively replace the overhead electricity distribution network in residential areas with underground power.
2. development of a new approach to identifying and prioritizing areas for investment in underground power, initiated by the need to invest in the overhead network to meet safety, reliability and capability requirements.
3. development of a new approach to allocating State Government resources to facilitate projects proceeding in areas with a high electricity network need and lower economic capacity of ratepayers while retaining a commitment to funding an average of 25% of program costs.
4. opportunity for Local Governments to initiate projects to convert areas to underground power be retained with Western Power to continue to contribute the amount recoverable as an efficient investment as calculated by the New Facilities Investment Test (NFIT).

Executive Summary:

- The last projects identified under Round 6 of the State Underground Power Program will be completed in late 2022.
- It is timely for the Association to review its policy position in relation to underground power and formulate an advocacy position for future investment.
- The current, competitive process is unlikely to be sustainable, as conversion to underground power the inner, coastal and river front suburbs is nearly completed. The current costs borne by householders (50 – 90% of project costs) are too high in lower socio economic areas.
- Western Power will need to invest significantly in parts of the network particularly that built between 1950 and 1980. Investing the avoided costs of this renewal in replacing the overhead network with underground power, offers the potential to significantly reduce the costs faced by residents.
- The State Government should continue to financially support underground power, targeting investment in those areas with high network need and lower financial capacity of ratepayers.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Cosgrove

Seconded: Cr Smith

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.4.

Carried

7.5 (5.5) CEO Recruitment and Selection, Performance Review and Termination Standards Regulations (05-034-01-0001 JM)

*By Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Service; and
James McGovern, Manager Governance*

Recommendations:

That WALGA

1. Does not endorse the *Local Government (Administration) Amendment Regulations 2020* in its current form.
2. Reiterates and updates the following advocacy positions from December 2019:
 - a) removal from the Regulations the requirement to re-advertise CEO positions after 10 year's continual service; and
 - b) Encouraging, rather than mandating, the involvement of an independent person in the CEO Recruitment and Selection Process.
3. Advocates for the following matters:
 - a) The retention of Regulation 18C of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations*;
 - b) Deletion of the requirement under Regulation 18FB(4) to provide a copy of a council resolution certifying compliance with the CEO standards to the Departmental CEO;
 - c) The conduct of an independent assessment of potential industrial and employment law consequences arising from the proposed regulations under Schedule 2, Division 4 'Standards for termination of employment of CEOs'; and
 - d) Deferral of Regulation 18FC pending an independent assessment of the Schedule 2, Division 4 'Standards for termination of employment of CEOs'.
4. Seek that the CEO Recruitment and Selection, Performance Review and Termination Working Group be reconvened to oversee the development of CEO Standards Regulations.

Executive Summary

- The *Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2019* was proclaimed in July 2019. This Act contemplated the introduction of model CEO Standards for recruitment, performance review and termination (Sec. 5.39A) and mandatory Code of Conduct for Elected Members, Committee Members and Candidates (Sec. 5.103)
- The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries conducted a process in relation to the proposed CEO Standards, with State Council adopting an advocacy position in December 2019.
- The Department released draft *Local Government (Administration) Amendment Regulations 2020* in October 2020, and agreed to extend consultation with the sector to permit WALGA Zones and State Council to provide comment.

Chair Cr Chappel requested that the Executive Officer forward the Model CEO Standards submissions received by the Shires of Chapman Valley, Mingenew and Morawa, to WALGA for their information.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Girando

Seconded: Proxy Battilana

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.5.

Carried

7.6 (5.6) Model Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates Regulations (05-034-01-0001 JM)

By Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Service; and James McGovern, Manager Governance

Recommendations:

That WALGA generally supports the *Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2020* with the following recommendations:

- a) Amend Division 2, Clause 4(d) to read *'identify and appropriately manage any conflict of interest'*;
- b) Does not support the inclusion of local level complaints about alleged behavioural breaches and Local Governments dealing with complaints provisions in Division 3, Clauses 10 and 11; and
- c) Supports an external oversight body to manage local level complaints involving council members as prefaced in the *Local Government Review Panel Report, City of Perth Inquiry Report* and *Select Committee into Local Government Report*, to be considered in a future Local Government Act.

Executive Summary:

- In December 2019, State Council adopted an advocacy position in response to proposals released for public consultation by the Department in October 2019;
- The draft *Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2020* ('Model Code') was released for comment by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries on 30 October 2020;
- In addition to introducing a mandatory Model Code of Conduct, the draft Regulations will repeal and replace the current *Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations 2007*.

Chair Cr Chappel requested that the Executive Officer forward the Model Code of Conduct submissions received by the Shires of Chapman Valley and Mingenew to WALGA for their information.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Girando

Seconded: Cr Smith

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.6.

Carried

8. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 2 December 2020.

The Matters for Noting/Information in the State Council agenda are numbered 6.1 to 6.9.

The Recommendation and Brief only have been included. Please refer to the attached PDF version of the State Council Agenda for more detail.

8.1 (6.1) Submission to the Infrastructure WA State Infrastructure Strategy Discussion Paper (05-085-03-0001 DM)

By Dana Mason, Policy Manager Economics

Recommendation:

That the endorsed Submission to the Infrastructure WA State Infrastructure Strategy Discussion Paper be noted.

Executive Summary:

- WALGA has prepared a submission in response to the Infrastructure WA (IWA) Discussion Paper to guide the development of a State Infrastructure Strategy.
- The Discussion Paper focusses on the guiding principles, objectives, methodology and governance for the development of the strategy, as well as opportunities and challenges over the medium to long term. It does not consider specific infrastructure projects, but is focused on the broader strategic framework.
- WALGA's submission advocates for the following issues.
 1. A sound strategic framework to guide the development of the State Infrastructure Strategy. This should contain a number of key elements including:
 - *A long-term vision for infrastructure in WA* which is underpinned by the broader vision for our State and its economy, environment and social fabric. The vision should be developed in consultation with the community.
 - *Infrastructure needs should be considered as a whole*, rather than examining specific regions or projects in isolation. The Strategy should recognise the interconnectivity of systems and flows of people and goods.
 - The strategy should *bring together existing plans for the state* (for example, regional plans, land use, transport, community plans etc.), to ensure alignment and consistency. *Any existing plans should be reviewed* to ensure that they remain relevant and fit for purpose.
 - The strategy should be developed *based on a robust and objective assessment of evidence* including data, stakeholder engagement and other analysis to determine the most pressing needs and priorities.
 2. An integrated approach to infrastructure planning and provision across all levels of Government and the private sector. The Discussion Paper makes little reference to the role that Local Government plays in the planning and delivery of infrastructure, with the focus instead in on infrastructure owned and delivered by the State Government agencies, GTEs and statutory authorities.
 3. Local Government plans to be used to inform the State Infrastructure Strategy through a bottom up approach. Local Governments have extensive community and land use plans that provide valuable local level insights to inform the Strategy.

4. Clear targets to measure progress against the State Infrastructure Strategy. The objectives identified in the Discussion Paper are appropriate but broad, and should be distilled into clear targets to ensure that progress in achieving the Strategy can be clearly measured.
 5. A focus on technology, data and digital connectivity as a key objective to underpin the State Infrastructure Plan. Digital technology will have significant implications for both our economy and community going forward, and appropriate digital connectivity should be designed and built into all public infrastructure.
 6. Innovative solutions to deliver on the state's future infrastructure needs in a fiscally constrained environment, including leveraging funding from other sources such as the private sector and broader policy reforms and non-build solutions. For Local Governments, amendments to the *Local Government Act 1995* to allow for the creation of Beneficial Enterprises will be an important reform to facilitate investment and collaboration with the private sector for infrastructure delivery.
 7. A focus on getting the most out of existing infrastructure and improving maintenance. The infrastructure strategy scope should include maximising the benefits of and minimising the lifecycle costs of existing infrastructure.
 8. Prioritisation criteria to not only consider a project's economic impacts, but also the social and environmental implications. There is a need to strike a balance between promoting new economic development and improvements in core service delivery.
 9. Resilience of infrastructure to be considered when it is planned, designed, delivered and managed, and should be of an appropriate standard to withstand the known climate change impacts likely to be experienced in the future.
 10. Infrastructure WA to explore the use of functional economic regions (which group a number of Local Government areas together based on real economic linkages) as a way to identify and deliver large-scale opportunities across regional borders. In some circumstances, it may be useful to consider a program of work that cuts across regional boundaries to support a particular strategic outcome, rather than individual projects.
 11. Greater use of technology to allow people to stay in regional areas and stem the decline in population, but will require access to fast and reliable telecommunications infrastructure.
 12. A clear way of facilitating bottom up input from outside of State Government agencies through the engagement process to develop the State Infrastructure Strategy.
- The submission also provides commentary on the trends and issues related to the WA economy and infrastructure sectors identified in the Discussion Paper.

8.2 (6.2) Draft Amendments to the Planning and Development (Local Planning Scheme) Regulations 2015 (05-047-01-0017 VJ)

By Vanessa Jackson, Policy Manager Planning and Improvement

Recommendation:

That the endorsed Submission on the Draft Amendments to the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Scheme) Regulations 2015*, be noted.

Executive Summary:

- On 20 August 2020, the WA Planning Commission released draft amendments to the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015*.
- The public comment period closed on 18 September 2020.
- A submission was prepared for State Council endorsement via Flying Minute.

8.3 (6.3) Interim Review – State Planning Policy 3.1 Residential Design Codes (05-015-02-0002 CH)

By Chris Hossen, Senior Planner

Recommendation:

That the endorsed submission on the interim review of State Planning Policy 3.1 Residential Design Codes, be noted.

Executive Summary:

- On 11 July 2020, the WA Planning Commission released the interim review of the State Planning Policy 3.1 Residential Design Codes (R-Codes) for public comment. The comment period closed on 10 September 2020.
- The submission was endorsed by State Council by Flying Minute.

8.4 (6.4) State and Federal Budgets (05-088-03-0001 DM)

By Dana Mason, Policy Manager Economics

Recommendation:

That the update on the 2020 Federal and State Budgets be noted.

Executive Summary:

- The State and Federal Budgets were handed down in recent weeks. The Budgets revealed the significant and lasting impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our economic and financial position.
- The Budget showed that COVID-19 had an immediate impact on the state's labour market, particularly those industries directly affected by the restrictions such as hospitality, arts and recreation and retail. This saw our domestic economy record the largest quarterly contraction on record (-6%) in June.
- However, the WA economy is still faring better than other states, and with our performance boosted by the state's dominant mining industry and the early containment of the virus, which allowed restrictions to be lifted.
- Even though WA is expected to perform better than other states, the impact of COVID-19 will still be long lasting, with unemployment expected to be elevated for a number of years.
- In light of this, the focus of the both the State and Federal Budgets were on COVID-19 recovery, and will see the use of debt to fund a range of initiatives intended to kick-start the economy.
- The headline of the State Budget was the previously announced \$5.5 billion COVID recovery plan, and an Asset Investment Program worth \$27 billion that will be funded through operating surpluses and additional debt.
- There were limited new announcements in the budget, but those which are welcome news for the sector, include:
 - \$7.6 million to implement the 'Stop Puppy Farming' legislation
 - \$5 million to assist local coastal managers to protect coastal erosion hotspot sites
 - \$15 million to treat priority bushfire and other risks on unallocated or unmanaged Crown land, including that under the care of Local Government
 - \$16.1 million over four years to target high casualty and high-risk intersections on local government roads within the metropolitan area.
- The Commonwealth has directed significant funding towards tax relief and incentives for both households and businesses to encourage spending and restart the economy.
- The Federal Budget contained more news that is positive for Local Governments, particularly the announcement of a \$1 billion investment in local roads and community infrastructure.
- Local Governments that rely heavily on domestic and international visitors will also benefit from the Federal Budget's \$50 million Regional Tourism Recovery initiative, and a new \$200 million round of the Building Better Regions Fund.
- Further detail about the State and Federal Budgets can be found in the Budget summary documents and WALGA Economic Briefing.

8.5 (6.5) Noongar Heritage Agreement for Local Government (05-032-01-0001 SM)

By Susie Moir, Policy Officer Community

Recommendation:

That the update on the Noongar Heritage Agreement for Local Government be noted.

Executive Summary:

- In August 2020 State Council endorsed the Template Noongar Heritage Agreement for Local Government (NHALG) which was developed by WALGA, the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC), the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH), the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC),

and the State Solicitors Office to facilitate a consistent approach to Aboriginal heritage across the area of the South West Native Title Settlement (SWNTS), which affects 101 Local Governments.

- In October 2020 SWALSC requested that commencement of the NHALG be delayed whilst they determine resourcing requirements to enter into NHALGs in a timely manner.
- SWALSC's resourcing issues also mean that they are unable to respond to Local Government's directly on heritage matters and have requested all Local Governments' to contact DPLH for heritage advice.

8.6 (6.6) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill Consultation (05-032-01-0001 SM)

By Susie Moir, Policy Officer Community

Recommendation:

That the update on the consultation on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill be noted.

Executive Summary:

- In September 2020 the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage released the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill (ACHB) for a short five week consultation period. The ACHB reflects the feedback of Aboriginal people, industry and stakeholders across the State gathered over two years of consultation.
- This followed consultation in 2018 and 2019 on the development of new legislation for the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage for Western Australia.
- WALGA lodged a response to the ACHB consultation survey on 1 October 2020.

8.7 (6.7) Local Government Animal Welfare in Emergencies Grant Program (06-081-01-0001 EDR)

By Evie Devitt-Rix, Acting Policy Manager Emergency Management

Recommendation:

That State Council note:-

- The Local Government Animal Welfare in Emergencies Grant Program is a collaboration between the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and WALGA to build the capacity of Local Government to assist their communities in responding to, and recovering from, emergencies.
- Recipients of the Grant funding have been notified and will commence their projects in November.

Executive Summary:

- The Local Government Animal Welfare in Emergencies Grant Program has been funded by DPIRD and administered by WALGA.
- Individual grants up to a maximum of \$10,000, and collaborative grants of up to \$5,000 per Local Governments were made available.
- Local Governments will use the funding to prepare or update a Local Government Animal Welfare in Emergencies Plan, procure equipment to house animals in the event of an emergency, host an exercise, facilitate training, or to develop their own project to build their capacity to respond to, and recover from emergencies.
- Twenty grants have been funded, including seven in the metropolitan area and thirteen in regional areas.

8.8 (6.8) 2020 Annual General Meeting (01-003-02-0003 TL)

By Tim Lane, Manager Strategy and Association Governance

Recommendation:

That the actions taken on the resolutions from the 2020 WALGA Annual General Meeting be noted.

Executive Summary:

- WALGA's 2020 Annual General Meeting was held on Friday, 25 September 2020
- The meeting resolved for WALGA to take action in relation to two policy issues:
 1. Drought in Western Australia, and

2. State Owned Unallocated Crown Land (UCL) House Blocks.

- Both items are consistent with WALGA Policy Positions and action has been undertaken consistent with the intent of the motions.

8.9 (6.9) COVID-19 - Update

By Nicole Matthews: COVID-19 Coordinator

Please note: The information in this report is up-to-date as of 30 October 2020. Supplementary information will be provided at Zone and State Council meetings, as well as through other channels, such as the COVID-19 Update from the WALGA President and CEO if required.

Recommendation:

That the information contained in this report be noted.

Executive Summary:

- At the time of writing there has been no community transmission of COVID-19 in WA since 11 April. Significant recent increases in WA's active cases are due to returning international travelers in quarantine and crew members of arriving international vessels.
- The national picture has improved, with the number of active cases falling, the Victorian outbreak coming under control and restrictions relaxed.

The Premier announced on 30 October that effective 14 November WA will move from a 'hard' to a 'controlled' interstate border, subject to advice from the WA Chief Health Officer. The modified 2 sqm rule (with exemptions) and remote Aboriginal community restrictions will remain in place.

- The State Government's COVID-19 priorities continue to be promoting economic recovery, the development and testing of COVID-19 outbreak and surge plans and ensuring the integrity of the quarantine management system.
- WALGA has continued to provide dedicated COVID-19 support and advocacy for members, including regular updates, webinars, guidance and analysis.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Thomas

Seconded: Cr Girando

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes State Council Agenda Items 6.1 to 6.9

Carried

9.0 REPORTS

9.1 Zone Chair/State Councillor's Report November 2020

Northern Country Zone of WALGA
Chairs Report November 2020

The three reports issued in recent months have continued to dominate conversations in Local Governments in the last few months. In this State Council agenda you will see where the Governance team at WALGA have produced an Advocacy paper using all the feedback from all Zones and Councils on the forementioned reports. This advocacy paper will enable both WALGA and Local Governments to work together in the interests of Local Government as we move to the State Election in March.

Recent Financial Regulation changes have caused Local Governments and the Office of the Auditor General some serious angst in recent times. Hopefully going forward situations like this do not arise again.

WALGA has been advocating through ALGA and our Federal representatives for quicker responses to funding applications, in particular the drought funding and LRCIP funding. If you are one of the Councils that have not yet received your approvals can you please advise WALGA.

Road funding appears to be viewed positively at present, we need to ensure that we all expend our allocations and have reserve projects as it appears the Government at both levels see this is a good way to stimulate the economy.

The Director Generals' breakfast held recently was a great success, Mayor Roberts has had requests for more of these as it enabled conversations that aren't always easy to arrange.

State Council held a special Council Meeting last week to consider the new Strategic Plan that is currently being developed for WALGA and the rebranding of LGIS.

I have continued to work with Senator Smith around the Drought Policy and in particular the Drought Resilience Plans that Local Government is meant to be involved around. It is all still in the planning stage.

Minister Price was in town last week and advised me that she is continuing to advocate on our behalf with Minister McCormack re Strategic Agricultural Routes funding. I advised her that we are revising the document and will be resubmitting as requested. Cr Cosgrove and I met with the MWDC and Main Roads around this request. Cr Cosgrove and Bernie Miller have been working closely on the submission using the previous submission as a guide. Thanks to Main Roads and the MWDC for their support in this process.

I have an ALGA Board meeting this Friday. We have an election as David O'Loughlin is retiring as President. Mayor Linda Collins from Victoria is the new President, as she is the only nominee. The Two deputy Presidents will be between 4 nominees of which one is Mayor Roberts. ALGA continues to ask for a seat at the National Table as happened with COAG prior to Covid19, it appears that this will not happen. Therefore, we need to ensure that Local Government is heard one way or the other.

On behalf of the Zone can I offer our thanks to Gavin Treasure CEO of the Mid West Development Commission for his contribution to Local Governments in the Northern Country Zone. Gavin has been around this table for quite some years and we wish him well in his new endeavours.

Karen Chappel

The Chair spoke to the report, adding additional comments:

- Mayor Roberts has been elected as Deputy Chair of ALGA;
- Chair Cr Chappel attended the Local Government House Trust meeting last week – Trust Units are doing very well due to a healthy commercial rental market;
- A Gala Dinner will be held on Saturday 20 February at Burswood, to celebrate 150 years of local government;
- The 2021 WALGA Conference will run from Sunday night to Thursday afternoon and will be back at Burswood.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Proxy Battilana

Seconded: Cr Simkin

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the November 2020 report from the Chair/State Councillor.

Carried

9.2 WALGA President's Report

The WALGA President's Report to the Zone for November 2020 was circulated prior to the meeting.

Mr Tim Lane spoke to the report, noting that WALGA will send out election advocacy papers soon, prior to the State elections and that the WALGA corporate strategy was endorsed at the last State Council meeting, to focus the organisations' direction for the next five years.

Chair Cr Chappel noted an apology from Mayor Tracey Roberts, who had to attend a Community Cabinet.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Thomas

Seconded: Cr Smith

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the November 2020 WALGA President's Report to the Zone.

Carried

9.3 Zone Status Report

Attachment – Zone Status Report

A Status Report outlining the actions taken on the Zone's resolutions is attached.

In regard to the April 28 2020 Zone Agenda Item 11.3.1 Exemption for Western Power to Attend to Power Outages During Total Fire Bans and Harvest Vehicle Movement Bans, Proxy Battilano queried how COVID-19 could delay this exemption.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Simkin

Seconded: Cr Thomas

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the November 2020 Status Report outlining actions taken on the Zone's resolutions.

Carried

9.4 Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group Report

The Northern Country Zone's Standing Invitee to the Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group is Merle Isbister.

Cr Isbister has attended a meeting in Geraldton since our August meeting. There was nothing to report except the Group advise when a death by suicide has occurred within the Midwest & Murchison, then support services and contacts are offered and implemented for survivors.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Proxy Fordham Lamont

Seconded: Cr King

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the November 2020 Report from its Standing Invitee to the Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group.

Carried

9.5 CA07 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition Working Group

The Northern Country Zone's Representative on the CA07 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition Working Group is Gary Cosgrove.

Nil to report

10. ZONE MATTERS FOR NOTING/DECISION

10.1 Correspondence

10.1.1 Correspondence Out

10.1.1 (a) 24/08/2020 Email to all WALGA Zones

- Attachments:* - NCZ Email to all WALGA Zones
- Copy of NCZ resolution at item 7.5 NCZ meeting Agenda 24 August 2020

Email to all Zones following 24 August NCZ meeting informing them of the Northern Country Zones' resolution regarding State Council Agenda Item 5.5 LG Review Panel Final Report (Item 7.5 on NCZ Agenda).

10.1.2 Correspondence In

10.1.2 (a) 25/08/2020 Jodie Holbrook DLGSC

- Attachments:* - Email from Jodie Holbrook
- Community Resilience Scorecard Midwest
- Community Resilience Scorecard Wheatbelt
Emailed to Members 25/08/2020

Email containing link to DLGSC Local Matters Newsletter with Community Resilience Scorecards attached.

10.1.2 (b) 25/09/2020 Robert Dew Avon Midland Country Zone

- Attachment:* - Email from Robert Dew
Emailed to members 02/10/2020

Email in response to NCZ email of 24/08/2020 detailing the resolution of the Avon-Midland Country Zone regarding the Local Government Review Panel Final Report.

10.1.2.(c) 03/09/2020 Bruce Whittber BHW Consulting Central Country Zone

- Attachments:* - Email from Bruce Whittber
- Central Country Zone 28 August 2020 Meeting Minutes
Emailed to members 02/10/2020

Email in response to NCZ email of 24/08/2020 outlining the outcome of the Central Country Zone's discussions regarding the Local Government Review Panel Final Report with CCZ Meeting minutes attached.

10.1.2 (d) 10/09/2020 M Degebrodts WALGA

- Attachments:* - Email from M Degebrodts
- Summary Minutes State Council Meeting 2 September 2020
Emailed to members 12/09/2020

Email containing link to Full WALGA State Council 2 September 2020 Meeting minutes with Summary minutes attached.

10.1.2 (e) 10/09/2020 M Degebrodts WALGA

- Attachment:* - Email from M Degebrodts
- Agenda WALGA AGM 25 September 2020
- 2019-2020 WALGA Annual Report
Emailed to members 12/09/2020

Email with WALGA 19-20 Annual Report and 25 September 2020 AGM Agenda attached.

10.1.2 (f) 01/10/2020 Cr Karen Chappel

- Attachment:* - Email from Cr Chappel
Emailed to members by Cr Chappel 1/10/2020

Email to members regarding the Wildflower Friendliness Rating Scheme, querying the amount of consultation with WALGA/Local Government during the development of the Scheme.

10.1.2 (g) 06/10/2020 M Degebrodt WALGA

*Attachment: - Email from M Degebrodt
- Minutes WALGA AGM 25 September 2020
Emailed to members 12/10/2020.*

Email with minutes of the WALGA AGM 25 September 2020 attached

10.1.2 (h) 07/10/2020 RDA Midwest Gascoyne

*Attachment: - Highlights of the 2020 Federal Budget for Regional Australia
Emailed to members 12/10/2020*

Newsletter outlining the highlights of the Federal Budget for Regional Australia.

10.1.2 (i) 02/11/2020 B Plug Shire of Perenjori

*Attachment: - Email from B Plug
Emailed to members 05/11/2020*

Email listing the names of the new Councillors at the Shire of Perenjori.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Cosgrove

Seconded: Cr Simkin

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes Correspondence Out at 10.1.1 and receives Correspondence In at Items 10.1.2(a) through to 10.1.2(i).

Carried

10.2 Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 30 October 2020

*Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer
Attachments: Bank Statements Aug/Sep/Oct 2020*

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 30 October 2020.

Comments:

The Detailed Income Statement shown below represents the cash position of NCZ 30 October 2020, as reconciled to the Bank Statement.

NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

For the period ending

30-Oct-20

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Description</i>
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-20		21,130.81	
Deposits			9,000.00	2020-21 Membership Subscriptions x 9
			0.61	Interest received
TOTAL RECEIPTS			9,000.61	
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE			30,131.42	
Payments Made	03-07-20		-2,805.66	Internet tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 202101 - EO services 01/05/2020 - 01/07/2020; Travel expenses
	05-08-20		-275.00	Internet tsf - North Midlands Accounting Service - Inv 2021-000003 - Audit Report for Year Ended 30 June 2020
	27-08-20		-408.24	BPay - Shire of Mingenew - Inv 9161 - Reimburse Catering for NCZ Meeting 22/06/2020
	27-08-20		-2,877.84	Internet tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 202102 - EO services 02/07/2020 - 25/08/2020; Travel/Stationery expenses
TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE			-6,366.74	
Closing Cash Balance	30-10-20		23,764.68	

NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA

BANK RECONCILIATION SUMMARY

For the period ending

30-Oct-20

Statement Balance B/F	01-07-20		21,130.81	
Deposits and Credits			9,000.61	
Cheques and Payments			-6,366.74	
Total Cleared Transactions	30-10-20		23,764.68	
Add back o/s			0.00	
Reconciled Balance			23,764.68	
Bank Statement	30-10-20		23,764.68	
Difference I&E to Bank Statement			0.00	

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Proxy Battilana

Seconded: Cr King

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 30 October 2020.

Carried

10.3 Meeting Dates 2021

Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA meets on the following dates in 2021: Monday 22 February 2021; Tuesday 27 April 2021 (*NB: Monday is the Anzac Day Holiday*); Monday 28 June 2021; Monday 23 August 2021; Monday 22 November 2021.

Background:

As has been the case in the past, State Council Ordinary meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of March, May, July and December. The September meeting is held on the first Friday, as it is a Regional meeting - this year it is being held in Broome.

Comment:

Northern Country Zone meetings are scheduled to fall on the Monday of the week prior to State Council meetings, to ensure that NCZ meeting minutes can be delivered to WALGA in a timely manner.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Simkin

Seconded: Cr King

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA meets on the following dates in 2021: Monday 22 February 2021; Tuesday 27 April 2021; Monday 28 June 2021; Monday 23 August 2021; Monday 22 November 2021.

Carried

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

As per Item 35 of the Zone Standing Orders, a Delegate may under General Business introduce a motion relating to any item of interest to Local Government, but not otherwise.

11.1 Regional Issues

Background:

As per the resolution at Item 9.1 of the February 2018 minutes, Regional Issues are open for discussion.

11.1.1 School Bus Routes

Prepared By: Shires of Perenjori and Morawa

RECOMMENDATION:

That the WALGA Northern Country Zone raise with the Department of Transport (School Bus Services Branch), the urgent need for a more timely, transparent and effective process to address the planning and establishment of school bus routes in rural communities.

COMMENT:

The establishment of school bus routes in Western Australian rural communities is the responsibility of the Department of Transport School Bus Services Branch (DOTSBSB). The Shire of Perenjori (SOP), along with many other local governments, has experienced a general lack of consultation before the School Bus Services Branch (SBSB) (re)allocate school bus routes. In some instances, the result has been that the Shire has had to direct limited resources to roads allocated by DOTSBSB as a school bus route to ensure that they are suitable for that use. Had there been a level of consultation with the Shire before the allocation, other more suitable roads could have been suggested.

In addition, local rural families may be disadvantaged through not being consulted by DOTSBSB when routes are changed because of increasing travel distances to drop children at school bus pick up points., In extreme cases this can necessitate a change in school the child may be attending.

Given the above issues are not just localised to the Shire of Perenjori, it would be appropriate to have the matter raised at the regional level.

Cr King noted that the item came about because of the confusion with school bus services in the Shire of Perenjori and the same happening in Morawa. Lack of consultation meant that some parents ended up sending their children to boarding school. Cr Cosgrove confirmed that it was an issue for Mingenew as well, with no consultation with the Shire or parents.

The Chair suggested that a delegation go to see Minister Safioti.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr King

Seconded: Cr Cosgrove

That the WALGA Northern Country Zone raise with the Department of Transport (School Bus Services Branch), the urgent need for a more timely, transparent and effective process to address the planning and establishment of school bus routes in rural communities.

Carried

11.2 Regional Tourism Initiatives

Background:

As per the resolution at Item 10.1 of the April 2019 minutes, Regional Tourism Initiatives are open for discussion.

The Chair asked that Mr Nils Hay inform the meeting of some of his activities in the Tourism field since last meeting.

Mr Hay worked through the following dot points:

At the recent Tourism Bound event, which he attended:

- Presentations from Minister and Tourism WA
 - o Industry very much focused on intrastate tourism at present, as borders reopen
 - o Focus shifted from international (which is usual focus of Tourism WA)
 - o Updates on TWA Narrative ('Spirit of Adventure'); those who attended the recent Deep Dive sessions in Geraldton and Three Springs would be familiar with this content
 - o Mayor Roberts outlined WALGA position around a tourism strategy for Local Government
- Case studies
 - o Wildflower Country
 - o Visitor Centres
 - o Regional Tourism Organisations (LG encouraged to engage with their RTO as first point of contact for assistance in the tourism space)
- Looking forward:
 - o Major events in 2021/22
 - o Indigenous tourism a focus
 - o Aviation critical (noting additional flights into Geraldton moving forwards)
- Event likely to become annual in nature

Regional Tourism Generally:

- Next round of BBRF coming soon; will feature tourism-focused stream
- Wildflower Country are working on a regional trails master plan (with thanks to Dept of Sport and Recreation and Development Commission for jointly funding)
- Based on some community interest, the Shire of Mingenew are looking to run an agri-tourism workshop in Mingenew in Feb/March 2021

11.3 Other General Business

The Chair offered Mr Gavin Treasure, Mr Bernie Millar, Mr Laurie Graham and Mr Shane Love the opportunity to address the meeting.

Mr Treasure touched on the Tourism Bound forum, which got state and local government engaged; he congratulated the Shire of Northampton on a great video of the Kalbarri Skywalk and mentioned that the Shire of Chapman Valley were successful in getting funding in the last REDS round, to improve communications at Coronation Beach. He also noted that the Yamatji Nation Settlement had reached conclusive registration about a month ago and so the first tranche of money (for Pink Lake and Lucky Bay) would be distributed around 1

July; the Draft Management Plan for the Abrolhos Islands is to be released soon as will the Regional Tourism Action Plan, which came out of the 2019 forum; Expressions of Interest for the Oakajee Industrial Estate close on 24 December – there has been a lot of interest. In closing, Mr Treasure encouraged everyone to view the film The Furnace, when they get the opportunity. It was filmed in the Murchison with closing shots in Kalbarri and made the short list at the Venice film Festival.

Chair Cr Chappel thanked Mr Treasure, who is leaving his position at the Midwest Development Commission in December, for all his hard work for the region and wished him well for the future.

Mr Bernie Miller updated the meeting on the status of the Midwest Secondary Grain Freight Routes Funding application. He and Cr Gary Cosgrove had finalised the road selection, with all but a 5km section of State owned roads removed from the submission. The Main Roads Project Officer is updating the submission with the new value of approximately \$77 million spread over 8 shires – it should be available to forward to Minister Price in the near future. This is a similar value to that awarded to the Wheatbelt for their Secondary Grain Freight Routes project.

Mr Miller then spoke of the \$179 million Regional Road Safety Program – Local Government Roads and noted that only five Shires in the Midwest had been offered funding to widen roads, to a total value of \$19 million and that the roads selected were not regarded as the best way to spend the funds. The local roads that Main Roads had nominated had not been selected and they have until 14 December to get better outcomes for the region.

Mr Graham and Mr Love both addressed the meeting, giving a brief precis of what is happening in their respective Houses of Parliament leading up to Christmas. Mr Love congratulated both Mr Treasure and Mr Miller for their hard work for the region, prior to their retirements.

12. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Recommendation:

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held on Monday 22 February 2021, commencing at 10 am, at the Mingenew Sports Pavilion.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Girando

Seconded: Cr Cosgrove

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held on Monday 22 February 2021, commencing at 10:00 am, at the Mingenew Sports Pavilion.

Carried

13. MEETING CLOSURE

Meeting declared closed at 11:35 am.