



Great Eastern Country Zone

Minutes

Kellerberrin Recreation and Leisure Centre

**Commenced at 9:30am
Wednesday 24 April 2019**

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Great Eastern Country Zone

Meeting was held at the Kellerberrin Recreation and Leisure Centre

Commenced at 9.30am, Wednesday 24 April 2019

Minutes

1. OPENING AND WELCOME
2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance

Shire of Bruce Rock	Mr Darren Mollenoyux
Shire of Cunderdin	Mr Neville Hale Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Dowerin	Cr Darrel Hudson Cr Julie Chatfield Ms Rebecca McCall Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Kellerberrin	Cr Rodney Forsyth Mr Raymond Griffiths Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Kondinin	Mr Alan George Acting Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Merredin	Cr Ken Hooper Cr Julie Flockart
Shire of Mount Marshall	Cr Tony Sachse Mr John Nuttall Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Mukinbudin	President Gary Shadbolt Mr Dirk Sellenger Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Narembeen	President Rhonda Cole Chair Cr Alan Wright Mr Chris Jackson Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Nungarin	President Cr Eileen O'Connell Cr Gary Combe Mr Adam Majid Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Tammin	Mr Neville Hale Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Trayning	President Melanie Brown Cr Geoff Waters Mr Paul Sheedy Acting Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

Shire of Westonia	President Karin Day Mr Jamie Criddle Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Wyalkatchem	Cr Quentin Davies Ms Taryn Dayman Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Yilgarn	President Onida Truran

WALGA Representatives

Mr Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Development
Ms Chantelle O'Brien, Governance Support Officer

Guests

Andrew Greig, Manager Member Services, LGIS

Apologies

Shire of Bruce Rock	President Stephen Strange
Shire of Cunderdin	Cr Dennis Whisson Cr Alison Harris
Shire of Dowerin	Ms Rebecca McCall Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Kondinin	President Sue Meeking Ms Mia Dohnt Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Koorda	President Ricky Storer Cr Pamela McWha Mr Gary Martin Acting Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Merredin	Mr Greg Powell Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Tammin	Cr Glenice Batchelor
Shire of Westonia	Cr Bill Huxtable
Shire of Yilgarn	Cr Wayne Della Bosca Mr Peter Clarke, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

Mr Craig Manton, Regional Manager, Wheatbelt, Main Roads Department of WA
Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt
Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt
Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries Representative

Attachments

The following were provided as attachments to the agenda:

1. Great Eastern Country Zone Minutes 18 March 2019.
2. Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee Minutes 11 April 2019.
3. GECZ Local Government Act review submission
4. Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee Meeting Minutes 21 February 2019
5. Wheatbelt District Emergency Management District Map
6. Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee Business Plan

7. Wheatbelt District Emergency Management – New Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Presentation
8. Wheatbelt District Emergency Management – State Recovery Presentation
9. State Council Agenda – via link:
<https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/2b9f150e-cedb-40f2-86ab-71c844ca9efc/State-Council-Agenda-8-May-2019.pdf>

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil

4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

WALGA representatives and LGIS guest speaker were requested to leave the meeting while the members of the Great Eastern Country Zone discussed the outcome of the Executive Committee meeting item 5.5 relating to the Zone Executive Officer position.

Mr Tony Brown, Ms Chantelle O'Brien and Mr Andrew Greig left the meeting at 9.32am and returned to the meeting at 9.37am.

5. **GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS**

5.1 **Local Government Insurance Services WA**

- Andrew Greig, Manager Member Services presented to the Zone on “**Your LGIS, what ownership delivers**”

What is a mutual and how is it different to traditional transactional insurance providers? This presentation included the history of LGIS, organisation structure, relationship with WALGA and provided examples of service delivery – highlighting the benefits of membership.

6. **MINUTES**

6.1 **Confirmation of Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held Monday 18 March 2019**

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Monday 18 March 2019 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Eileen O'Connell
Seconded: Cr Rodney Forsyth

That the minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held Monday 18 March 2019 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

6.2 Business Arising from the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting Monday 18 March 2019

Nil

6.2.1 (12.3) Telstra - Power Outages Effecting Communications

The Zone resolved:

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.
2. Write to Boyd Brown, Telstra to seek a written response in respect to power outage procedures in place, what is the Battery Back-up Program and what is a better procedure going forward using the latest technology. (Local member to be provided a copy of letter).
3. Executive Officer to support a Zone Local Government in providing an Agenda Item to the Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly in regards to the failing of telecommunications in regional Australia.

Please find below the emailed response from Boyd Brown, Telstra.

As discussed at the zone meeting, Telstra has a number of back-up systems for power outages, some large exchange sites have battery banks, generators and in ground diesel tanks, smaller exchange and mobile sites mostly have back-up batteries. All our network sites are monitored centrally via a 24/7 monitored command office located in Melbourne. This facility monitors our sites around performance and capacity, and there are alarms which relate to various functions, including power outages.

Exchanges and mobile phone towers rely on a regular power supply and a maintained feed. While Telstra have contingencies to cover short power outages, these facilities are not designed to operate for long periods without power. If there is going to be a long outage Telstra can, in certain circumstances, deploy portable backup generators, especially during emergencies or natural disasters. Priority at these times is determined by the Emergency Services Organisations in consultation with the Telstra ESO liaison officer.

While loss of communications between Emergency Services is a disruption, no mobile phone service should ever be relied upon as a sole source of communications during emergencies. For this reason Emergency Services organisations should use radio networks as a primary source of communications with other services such as mobile phones, landlines and satellite phones used as an adjunct.

- *We have around 40,000 network sites that require power, including data centres, exchanges and mobile base stations. Our sites typically have battery backup or generators in case of a disruption to energy supplies. This backup power is designed to provide some cover for blackouts but not the loss of power for extended periods.*
- *We check the generators and batteries at our sites regularly to make sure they're in good condition. This include servicing our generators and ensuring we have enough fuel.*
- *Telstra also has a large, geographically dispersed technical field workforce who can respond quickly in case of outages or emergencies.*
- *We continue to roll out energy improvements across our network sites, such as installing new efficient lighting and air-conditioning controls, retiring inefficient cooling systems, developing improved fault detection and investing in solar PV and combined energy storage.*

Executive Officer advised the Great Eastern Country Zone members that another Telstra representative's contact details have been provided and may be beneficial to liaise with them on this matter.

State Emergency management Committee are also being consulted and further information will come back to the Zone when available.

6.2.2 (7.2) Doctor Availability – Merredin Hospital

A letter has been sent to the Minister of Health requesting a deputation on the issue of doctor availability at Merredin Hospital. A response will be provided to the Zone once received.

The Executive Committee has requested the following attend the deputation:

- Zone President – Cr Rhonda Cole
- Shire President, Merredin – Cr Ken Hooper
- Shire President, Mukinbudin – Cr Gary Shadbolt

RESOLVED

Cr Rhonda Cole declared a conflict of interest with her current employment on this matter and the Great Eastern Country Zone agreed that President Stephen Strange will go in her place.

6.3 Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held Thursday 11 April 2019 (Attachment 1)

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Tony Sachse
Seconded: Cr Geoff Waters

That the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the Great Eastern Country Zone held Thursday 11 April 2019 be endorsed.

CARRIED

7. ZONE BUSINESS

7.1 WALGA Health Forum Update

BACKGROUND

On February 19, WALGA hosted an event which brought together WA primary health agencies with Local Government Elected Members, CEOs and Officers from over twenty-five regional areas in Western Australia. The event was precipitated by Local Governments' request for WALGA's support and assistance with the challenges faced by regional areas in primary health care. The event provided a starting point to address these concerns. The WA Country Health Service (WACHS), WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA), the Aboriginal Health Council of WA, Rural Health West, and St John WA were represented at the event, which was also broadcast through webinar and has been recorded to share on the WALGA website. State Council will receive an Item for Noting of outcomes that arose from this event at their May meeting.

COMMENT

Feedback from the event has highlighted the challenges surrounding communication with service providers, primarily WACHS, diminishing funding, volunteer burnout and access to mental health treatment. Participants have provided clear guidance to WALGA on what they would like actioned in the coming 12 months which includes local regional forums for face to face engagement and greater engagement and collaboration with Western Australian Country Health Service (WACHS). WALGA officers will also work with WACHS for the potential to provide an updated contact list of who to contact and what services they provide.

Noted

7.2 Local Government Act Review

As the Zone is aware, the Minister for Local Government announced a 2 phase Local Government Act review process.

The first phase has been dealing with issues the Local Government sector listed as urgent issues, such as simplifying the gift provisions, providing Local Governments with the ability to advertise electronically rather than placing advertisements in newspapers, reviewing codes of conduct and providing for standards and policies around the CEO recruitment and performance review process.

The second phase of the Act review process is a complete review of the Act that will provide for a Green Bill to be considered and ultimately a New Local Government Act. The Zone submission on phase 2 of the Act review was submitted on 29 March 2019 as per attachment 3.

The phase 1 changes have been included in the Local Government Amendment Bill 2019 which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly by the Minister for Local Government on 14 March 2019 and was subsequently endorsed by the Assembly on 11 April 2019. The Bill will now be debated in the Legislative Council from 7 May 2019.

This Bill includes amendments to the Local Government Act that align with WALGA's advocacy which was endorsed by the sector in September 2018 and includes the following matters:

- Gifts
- Universal Training
- Standards of Behaviour
- CEO Recruitment and Performance Review
- Public Notices and Access to Information
- Administrative Efficiencies

The proposal around Universal Training was proposed by the Minister and includes the requirement for all candidates at Local Government elections to attend a candidate's information session as part of their nomination requirement. This will be an on-line information session that the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries will run and will not include any assessment. In addition all new and re-elected Elected Members will need to carry out training on five (5) core units in 12 months following being elected.

Those elected members not up for election until 2021 will not need to do the training until after October 2021. In respect to funding for training, it is the Associations position that the training is the States idea, so the State should pay. We will continue to advocate for funding to be provided.

In the absence of a funding commitment for the training, for Local Government budgeting purposes, the following are indicative costing that can be considered;

Face to Face Cost + eLearning

3 face to face courses and 2 eLearning will be approximately = \$2,400 per Elected Member

Individual eLearning Cost

All 5 courses by eLearning will be approximately \$1,000 per Elected Member

However a council could subscribe to a licence where all Elected Members and Officers from that Local Government can purchase a licence for a course or all courses. This reduces the cost considerably.

The Amendment Bill will need to pass through the Parliament by 30 June 2019 to allow for the provisions around Universal Training to apply for the 2019 elections.

Noted

8. ZONE REPORTS

8.1 Zone President Report

By Cr Rhonda Cole

Cr Rhonda Cole commented on matters of interest such as training and that the quality of trainers is important. Also Local Government Insurance Service's contribution to the Sector is valued.

RESOLVED

That the Zone President's Report be received.

8.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group

By Cr Rod Forsyth

Information was provided by Cr Ricky Storer on the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network (WSFN) progress.

The BBRF application for the pre-construction work of roads prioritised in the project was unsuccessful, a follow up meeting has been arranged so we can get information as why the application was ineligible.

An application for commodity Route funding was not considered. There has not been any additional information provided.

27th March, an announcement by DPM Minister McCormack of a \$70 million grant from the ROSI fund to the WSFN for capitol works.

This money comes from a \$3.5 Billion budget allocation and is not an election commitment. Additional information from the Federal department of Regional Development, Infrastructure and Cities, suggest that this is 80% of the funding amount, with a further 20% required from other sources.

The WSFN working group have scheduled meetings with Minister Saffioti's office and Nicole Lockwood from Infrastructure Australia, on the 6th May to discuss the progress and other possible funding sources for the project.

An announcement by Minister MacTiernan of \$100,000 through the RED's fund, to the Shire of Koorda, as lead agency in the application, to assist with the project management of the WSFN project for both the pre-construction and actual on ground work.

It is estimated that it will be a 3 to 4 year timeframe, depending on the capacity of LG's and contractors, for the delivery of the works.

The WSFN working group met on the 15th April to discuss both progressing the ROSI and RED's funding announcement. Due the Federal election, we have not been able to get clear guidelines as to the criteria for ROSI money. Work is now beginning on building a business case and establishing a project management team to ensure that we are able to meet expected milestones once these guidelines have been made clear.

A request will be made to all 42 local governments for a consideration of a rebranding of the \$6,000 commitment for the Unsuccessful BBRF application to a co-contribution towards the RED's funding announcement.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Onida Truran
Seconded: Cr Gary Shadbolt

That the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Report be received.

CARRIED

8.3 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee

By Cr Tony Sachse

The Wheatbelt DEMC last met at the St John Ambulance facility in Northam on Thursday 21st February 2019, and some information relating to this meeting was reported to the GECZ for the meeting held on 18th March, 2019. The attachments relating to the Wheatbelt DEMC meeting were not available at that time of writing for the GECZ March Report, and that being the case they are now attached.

The first attachment (attachment 4) is the unconfirmed minutes of meeting.

The second attachment (attachment 5) is a map of the Local Governments within the Wheatbelt DEMC. Comment regarding this is that the area in question does not match other agencies. For example Police, DFES, LG Zones and others can cover different geographical areas. While this is not unworkable, it does need to be taken into account in specific, statistical and general reporting.

The third attachment (attachment 6) is the Wheatbelt DEMC Business Pan for 2019 – 2020. The fourth and fifth attachments relate to a Guest Presentation from Suellen Flint and David Budd from the State Recovery Team. This includes information on the New Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements February 2019, and State Recovery.

The last Wheatbelt DEMC report indicated that there was to be a Wheatbelt DEMC in Merredin for June, 2020. This is incorrect. In fact the next Wheatbelt DEMC meeting is scheduled for Thursday 20th June 2019 in Merredin, subject to the Executive Officer liaising with the Shire of Merredin.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Geoff Waters
Seconded: Cr Rod Forsyth

That the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee Report be received.

CARRIED

**9. WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WALGA)
BUSINESS**

9.1 State Councillor Report

Cr Stephen Strange

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Eileen O'Connell

Seconded: Mr Darren Mollenoyux

That the State Councillor Report be received.

CARRIED

Cr Stephen Strange was an apology for this meeting, however a report was provided and is attached to the minutes (Attachment 2)

9.2 WALGA Status Report

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

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

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Up-date	WALGA Contact
Grt Eastern C	2019 March Zone Agenda Item 12.2 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.	WALGA staff are currently researching the Office of Auditor General audit costs for Local Governments. Once information is a collated a response will be provided to the Zone	May 2019	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au
Grt Eastern C	2019 March Zone Agenda Item 12.3 Telstra – Power Outages Effecting Communications	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.	WALGA have written to the SEMC to request action in respect to power outages effecting telecommunications. A response will be provided to the Zone when received.	May 2019	Joanne Burges Executive Manager, People and Place jborges@walga.asn.au 9213 2018
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; 2. 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	The Water Corporation has agreed to engage directly with every Local Government affected by the proposed changes to management and billing arrangements for standpipes across WA. WALGA has been regularly monitoring this process, ensuring that the issues identified by each Council are addressed. The Water Corporation has made a commercial decision to apply commercial rates to water supplied through high flow standpipes when used for commercial purposes. As Local Governments are the customer billed for these services there is likely to need to be changes to the arrangements for metering and security. The requirements will differ in each situation. The intent is that domestic and stock water can continue to be accessed at the community rate – which is the rate charged to those who access water through the scheme. Frequent use of high flow standpipes has the potential to comprise town water supplies.	May 2019	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031

		allow effected landholders the ability to create on-farm water storage and water connections			
Grt Eastern C	2018 November 29 Zone Agenda Item 7.3 Container Deposit Scheme Locations	<p>That the Great Eastern Country Zone requests that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All Local Governments be guaranteed, as a minimum, one flexible refund point in their area. 2. 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 <p>The State Government provide appropriate funding for the refund points.</p>	<p>WALGA provided an extensive Submission to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) Draft Customer Service Standard for the Container Deposit Scheme. In relation to the Zone's recommendation, WALGAs Submission supported the approach of ensuring that all Local Governments be guaranteed a flexible refund point and the operating hours for a flexible refund point be clearly defined.</p> <p>WALGA will continue to advocate for State Government funding for infrastructure to assist the sector in implementing the CDS. It is anticipated the final Customer Service Standard will be released in March/April 2019.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Mark Batty Executive Manager Environment and Waste Mbatty@walga.asn.au 9213 2078</p>

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 Onida Truran
Seconded: Cr Quentin Davies

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

CARRIED

9.3 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/2b9f150e-cedb-40f2-86ab-71c844ca9efc/State-Council-Agenda-8-May-2019.pdf>

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

5.1 Road Safety Audit Local Government Policy Template

WALGA Recommendation

That the Road Safety Audit Local Government policy template be endorsed.

5.2 ‘Preferred Model’ for Third Party Appeal Rights for Decisions Made by Development Assessment Panels

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA:

1. Continues to advocate for the State Government to introduce Third Party Appeal Rights for decisions made by Development Assessment Panels; and
2. Endorses the ‘Preferred Model’ as the third party appeals process for decisions made by Development Assessment Panels.

5.3 Interim Submission – Draft Position Statement: Tourism Land Uses within Bushfire Prone Areas

WALGA Recommendation

That the interim submission to the Western Australian Planning Commission on Draft Position Statement: Tourism land uses within bushfire prone areas, be endorsed.

5.4 Public Library Tiered Service Framework

WALGA Recommendation

That the new tiered model to support public library service delivery in WA be endorsed.

5.5 Community Technical Reference Group

WALGA Recommendation

That the establishment of a Community Technical Reference Group be endorsed.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Quentin Davies

Seconded: Cr Karin Day

That the Great Eastern Country Zone supports all Matters for Decision as listed above in the State Council Agenda.

CARRIED

9.4 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Matters for Noting / Information

6.1 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC)

9.5 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Organisational Reports

7.1 Key Activity 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

9.6 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

9.7 WALGA President's Report

The WALGA President's Report was distributed prior to the meeting.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rod Forsyth
Seconded: Cr Gary Shadbolt

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

10. AGENCY REPORTS

10.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

The representative from the Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries was an apology for this meeting, an update report has been provided and is attached to the minutes. (Attachment 3)

10.2 Mainroads Western Australia

Mr Craig Manton is an apology for this meeting and an update will be provided at the June Zone meeting.

10.3 Wheatbelt RDA

Mandy Walker, Wheatbelt RDA is an apology for this meeting.

11. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Nil

12. EMERGING ISSUES

Nil

13. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

14. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Great Eastern Country Zone will be held in Merredin on Thursday 27 June, commencing at 9.30am.

15. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 10.30am.

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