



WALGA

**Great Southern Zone
of WALGA**

MINUTES

of an Ordinary meeting
(2 voting delegates per council)

held on

Friday 19 November 2021

Venue:
Sounness Park
150 McDonald Avenue
Mt Barker
Shire of Plantagenet

1. OPEN: 10.34am

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Cr Chris Pavlovich Annabel Paulley	Zone President and Chair of the meeting Zone Executive Officer
City of Albany	Cr Paul Terry (from 11.02am), Cr Matt Benson-Lidholm and CEO Andrew Sharpe
Broomehill / Tambellup	Cr Michael White, Cr Douglas Barritt and CEO Chris Jackson
Cranbrook	Cr Phil Horrocks and CEO Linda Gray
Denmark	Nil
Gnowangerup	Cr Fiona Gaze, Cr Greg Stewart and Acting CEO Ian Graham
Jerramungup	Cr Andrew Price, Cr Julie Leenhouders and
Katanning	Cr Liz Guidera and Cr John Goodheart.
Kent	Cr Scott Crosby, Cr Kate Johnston and CEO Adam Majid
Kojonup	Cr Alan Egerton-Warburton, Cr Kevin Gale and CEO Grant Thompson
Plantagenet	Cr Chris Pavlovich, Cr Jon Oldfield and Deputy CEO John Fathers
Woodanilling	Cr Stephen Jefferies, Cr Russel Thomson and CEO Stephen Gash

Total of 18 (later 19) out of a possible 22 voting delegates were in attendance at the start of the meeting.

Guests

Murray Carter, Executive Director of the Rural Fire division of DFES.
WALGA President Tracey Roberts (via video link)
Ms Nicole Matthews, Acting Executive Manager; Strategy, Policy and Planning, WALGA.
Tim Fraser, Executive Director Local Government, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (via video link)
Cr Ned Radford, Shire of Kojonup (Observer).
Director of Technical Services Graham Steel, Shire of Ravensthorpe (observer)
Cr Bev Smith, Shire of Woodanilling (Observer)
Cr Marie O'Dea, Cr Ken Clements and Cr Len Handasyde, Shire of Plantagenet (observers)

Apologies

Minister for Transport, Rita Saffioti
Minister for regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Hydrogen Industry, Alannah MacTiernan
Natasha Monks, CEO, Great Southern Development Commission
Vivien Gardiner, Road Safety Adviser, WALGA RoadWise
CEO Julian Murphy, Shire of Katanning
CEO Bob Jarvis, Shire of Gnowangerup
Cr Donna Carman, Cr Janine Phillips and CEO David Schober, Shire of Denmark
CEO Martin Cuthbert, Shire of Jerramungup

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 Cr Chris Pavlovich declared an interest in Zone agenda item 8.2 - CA07 Condition on RAV Approvals due to him being the part owner of a local transport service provider and primary producer utilising RAV/AMMS vehicles.

REMINDER: All delegates present at a Zone meeting shall vote, as per Zone Standing Order 28.1

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – ZONE AND WALGA STATE COUNCIL

4.1 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY ZONE MEETING – 20 AUGUST 2021

MOVED Cr Jon Oldfield

SECONDED Cr Phil Horrocks

That the minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Great Southern Zone of the WALGA held on Friday 20 August 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

CARRIED 18-0

4.2 MINUTES OF THE WALGA STATE COUNCIL MEETING – 3 SEPTEMBER 2021

MOVED Cr Liz Guidera

SECONDED Cr Fiona Gaze

**That the Minutes of meeting of the State Council of WALGA held on 3 September 2021 be received.
CARRIED 18-0**

Tracey Roberts joined the meeting via video link at 10.30am.

5. WALGA UPDATES & REVIEW OF WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA – 1 December 2021

5.1 Status Report from WALGA to the Zone

The status report dated November 2021 is attached. See Word document notes.

ACTION: Information about a WALGA event on 'Navigating Native Vegetation Clearing Referrals and Permits' on Weds 8 December 2021 to be circulated to Zone councils.

5.2 WALGA State Council President's Report - Mayor Tracey Roberts JP

WALGA President's report dated December 2021 taken as read.

Key points highlighted by Tracey Roberts were:

- From WALGA's perspective, Minister John Carey's announcement about Reform of the Local Government Act was welcomed. WALGA prefers first past the post voting system rather than preferential voting system being proposed by the Minister. Ms Roberts urged Local Governments to make their views known before the 4 February 2022 deadline as it will not be extended.
- COVID-19 vaccinations - WALGA has promoted the importance of being vaccinated to communities.
- Mandatory training for Elected Members. Improvements have been made to online training.

Tim Frazer from DLGSC entered the meeting via video link at 10.45am.

5.3 Tim Fraser, Executive Director Local Government, Dept of Local Government

Key points:-

- Minister John Carey has made it clear that while the package is set, there is still opportunity to make suggested changes.
- Department staff are working on drafting the legislation and supporting material. Minister wants it introduced to Parliament in 2022. Opportunity to work with WALGA and Local Governments
- Stop Puppy Farming Bill.
- Department is looking at how the Sector has been handled in the past. The 'Plan on a Page' feature of the Department's website clearly sets out legislative reform and other priorities.
ACTION: Councils to provide feedback about the Department's website feature 'Plan on a Page'.
- Financial reporting and financial templates. Templates have been completed and are now with the Office of the Auditor General for review. Templates will replace the accounting manual. Tier 3 and 4 councils will have easier reporting process. Department hopes to circulate details before Christmas and finalise the documents by March 2022.
- Serious and minor complaints and investigations. Authorised inquiries over the past few years. Doing full external review of investigation process for handling serious and minor complaints. Standards Panel - the Department has cut processing times by 40%.
- Department is doing a range of other reviews to better serve Local Governments. Better support, better education to the Local Government sector. Support early intervention so that problems don't blow into serious investigations / inquiries.

Cr Paul Terry entered the room at 11.02am, making 19 voting delegates.

Q&A Session

CEO Chris Jackson asked if the Department will be putting on more staff to support Local Governments.

Tim Fraser advised that financial reporting improvements will make it easier for smaller councils. The Dept had already employed additional staff and new staff will be coming on board. He was confident that support could be provided, balanced against streamlining of processes.

Tim Fraser encouraged councils to contact him direct if they have any further enquiries.

Tim Frazer terminated his video link and left the meeting at 11.04am.

5.4 State Council Representative's Report - Nil

5.5 Matters for Decision – Zone consideration required

Consideration of the December 2021 WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Decision.

5.1 Paid Family and Domestic Violence Leave Entitlements

5.2 Payment to Independent Committee Members

5.3 2021 Annual General Meeting

5.4 Review of advocacy positions relating to the Building Act 2011 and Building Regulations 2012

5.5 Draft WA Building Surveyors Code of Conduct

MOVED Cr Jon Oldfield

SECONDED Cr Phil Horrocks

That the Great Southern Zone supports the recommendations for Matters for Decision Items 5.1 and 5.5 in the December 2021 WALGA State Council Agenda.

CARRIED 19-0

5.6 Matters for Noting – for Zone information

Additional Item for Noting from WALGA – Work Health and Safety Legislation Update circulated prior to the meeting. Received and noted.

5.7 State Council Status Report

Separate document circulated.

Item 4.1 Protocols for State Councillors contesting State and Federal Elections

Cr Guidera requested further clarification about writs being issued and declared candidacy.

ACTION: Tony Brown to provide a response.

Cr Guidera enquired about the issue of superannuation for councillors.

Nicole Matthews advised that due to the consultation period being undertaken during Local Governments' caretaker and electoral period, Zone and State Council consideration of this issue had been deferred for this round of meetings pending further discussion and engagement with the Local Government sector.

Tracey Roberts terminated her video link and left the meeting at 11.12am.

6. ACTION REGISTER

6.1 Action Register – refer to attached updated document.

7. KEY STRATEGIC ZONE ISSUES FOR 2021

7.1 **Key Strategic Zone Issues Register** – refer to attached document.

GUEST SPEAKERS AT 2022 MEETINGS - LINKED TO KEY STRATEGIC ZONE ISSUES

ACTION: Councils to decide which Ministers, Politicians, Directors General and other speakers they wish to attend Zone meetings in 2022.

Zone meeting dates 2022	Guest Speakers
18 February	No guest speakers. Zone to have strategic planning forum to decide how member councils would like the Zone to move forward.
22 April	To be decided after planning forum.
24 June	To be decided after planning forum.
26 August	To be decided after planning forum.
4 November	To be decided after planning forum.

Outstanding or suggested speakers

- Ian Clarke, CEO, Albany Youth Support Association.
- Ben Headlam, Palmerston Services Great Southern – drug and alcohol issues in the region and COVID-19 impact. Also, lack of rehabilitation centre in the region. Look at presentation in 2022.
- Forest Industries Federation WA - briefing on the timber industry in WA and particularly regarding the South West Timber Hub, noting that forestry is a significant industry in the Great Southern. Look at presentation in 2022.
- Presentation by Office of the Auditor General.
August 2021 update: The Office of the Auditor General emailed the Zone on 9 August 2021 advising that it is now responsible for all WA local government and regional council financial audits. If the Great Southern Zone has any questions about our financial audit process or performance audit program/reports, the OAG would be happy to provide a presentation at a future Zone meeting.
- Dr Lenore Lyons has offered to give a short presentation to update Zone Councils on Outdoors Great Southern (formerly GSCORE).

8. ZONE BUSINESS

8.1 REFORMS TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT BY MINISTER JOHN CAREY

Link to the Minister Carey's media statement is [here](#).

The consultation period is open for feedback on the implementation of the reforms.

Further details on the proposed reforms can be found at: <http://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/lgactreform>

The comment period closes on 4 February 2022.

Two information documents from WALGA circulated prior to the meeting.

Discussion

Cr Guidera - would like to know councils' feedback. Is the Department truly recognising the difference between regional and metro councils?

Cr Pavlovich – Initial feedback from the Minister relative to our Zone: Local Government monitors will have an effect on councils. Recording of Tier 3 & 4 council meetings. No wards in Tier 3 and 4. Superannuation for Elected Members - each council can possibly choose. Annual Electors' meetings are to stay but can be done in conjunction with council meetings.

Stephen Gash queried if 5 councillors could cover the workload for Tier 3 councils.

Cr Oldfield raised concerns about councils having to pay for inspectors.

CEO Grant Thompson said that **Elected Members would need to be council employees to be paid superannuation. He requested that this query be clarified.**

Nicole Matthews advised the following:-

- 22 November 2021 – WALGA Info Page to be sent out to the Local Government Sector requesting feedback on proposals.
This paper will include advice on the sectors current position that are covered in the reform proposals together with recommendations on new positions required on matters not previously canvassed.
 - 12 January 2022 – Local Governments requested to provide feedback by 5pm on 12 January 2022
 - WALGA will encourage Local Governments to provide a submission to WALGA and also provide a submission directly to the Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries
 - Zones may consider holding a special meeting either in-person or via video/tele conference in the last week of January 2022.
 - 2 February 2021 – WALGA State Council to meet to consider positions. State Councillors will be encouraged to obtain feedback to the State Council agenda items from their Zone representatives.
 - 4 February 2022 – WALGA to present a submission to the State Government
- Please note that the Sector currently has positions on 27 of the 44 positions and will require positions on the remaining 17.

Further discussion points

Confidential items in council meetings need to be recorded and sent to State Archives.

Criteria will assist councils to decide if an item is confidential or not.

Inspector will have new powers.

Audit committee requirements will make it hard for smaller rural councils to find someone and adds another cost.

All of these extra requirements are an added cost for councils.

There will be a suit of templates for Local Governments.

Shared CEOs will be legal.

Less financial reporting for Tier 3 and 4 councils.

Strategic Community Plans will cover 8 years.

Streamlined Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.

Elected Members who don't do mandatory training will not be paid.

Minister would like councils to focus on new ideas and innovation.

8.2 CA07 CONDITION ON RAV APPROVALS

Cr Pavlovich remained in the room and participated in the discussion on this item.

8.2.1 Refer to attached information from Cr Chris Pavlovich.

Action from August 2021 meeting: Zone councils to discuss the CA07 condition within their councils in preparation for providing feedback and making a decision about this issue at the November 2021 Zone meeting.

Stephen Gash advised that WALGA is still working on the model and it is not ready for circulation yet.

Cr Pavlovich - Stalemate with Main Roads about CA07 letter which has lead to nothing being done.

LGAs do not have the ability to manage damage to their local roads. Many industry road users do not contact the relevant local councils. Safety of trucks is controlled by Main Roads.

Cr White - a lot of roads on the RAV7 network come with a condition that the CA07 letter is carried in the truck.

ACTION: Cr Pavlovich to take up this issue with the State Advisory Committee.

8.2.2. Nicole Matthews from WALGA provided a verbal update on WALGA's recent meeting with Main Roads WA Heavy Vehicle. Key points as follows:-

- WALGA met with the Director of Heavy Vehicle Services on 29 October to discuss foreshadowed changes to the CA07 condition.
- The Director advised that he is waiting on Executive agreement to finalise a position.

- It was indicated that Main Roads WA is comfortable with continuing to apply the CA07 condition to access roads when requested to do so by the Local Government.
- Main Roads has received positive feedback from industry concerning maintenance and contributions arrangements that have been negotiated between Local Governments and mining companies, based on the Heavy Vehicle Cost Recovery Policy Guidelines and associated User Guides to estimate costs on sealed and unsealed roads, published by WALGA.
- Status quo remains until further notice.

8.3 EMAIL FROM ROB DICKIE AT CBH ABOUT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

For consideration by Great Southern Zone delegates to review and consider an application under the programme.

Recent announcement by Assistant Minister Buchholtz as follows:-

[\\$250 million to improve roads and keep freight moving | Ministers for the Department of Infrastructure](#)

Link to the Bridges renewal program website: [Bridges Renewal Program \(infrastructure.gov.au\)](https://infrastructure.gov.au/bridges-renewal-program)

Noted.

8.4 FEEDBACK ON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURAL FREIGHT GROUP

The Group's Chair requested feedback from the Group's member Zones as to the continuation of the Group, the role it should play (particularly with regard to advocacy to the State Government) and the frequency of meetings.

The Group's current objectives are:-

- To achieve an integrated road/rail network to support the agricultural freight task.
- To facilitate the development of local government policy and capacity for a coordinated efficient approach to the use of roads by heavy vehicles in the agricultural freight task.
- To provide input to the Western Australian Local Government Association on the agricultural freight task.
- To provide a forum to promote and advocate an understanding of the issues associated with local roads supporting the agricultural freight task.
- To advocate a community and industry understanding of the issues associated with the agricultural freight task.

Recommendation

That the Great Southern Zone of WALGA provides feedback to the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group before the next meeting on Friday 26 November 2021.

Resolved:

Cr Russel Thomson to attend the meeting on 26 November and provide feedback that the Zone would like the LGAFG to be progressive on agriculture freight funding via the Revitalising Agricultural Region Freight Strategy

8.5 LIVE WEBINAR - WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT 2020 (WA)

Held on 12 November 2021 with information for volunteers and volunteer organisations.

Noted.

9. EMERGING ISSUES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

City of Albany

- Issues with getting contractors.

Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup

- OSH side of fire and emergency services.
- Policing COVID vaccinations. Concerned about hesitancy about going to fires and needs to be pointed out to DFES.

Shire of Cranbrook

- Need to retain farming land rather than hand it over to carbon farming for trees. Mining companies are buying up farms, planting them to trees and locking them up for years.

Shire of Denmark - not present to report.

Shire of Gnowangerup

- Housing and headworks costs.

Shire of Jerramungup

- New doctor has been secured.

Shire of Katanning

- Nothing to report that had not already been mentioned.
- Looking forward to Zone planning forum in February 2022.

Shire of Kent

- Nothing to report that had not already been mentioned.

Shire of Kojonup

- Training for volunteer fire fighters - who pays for workers compensation or is this covered by DFES?
- Headworks costs for developers to start new housing projects. Would like Planning Minister to review costs and remove if possible.

Shire of Plantagenet

- Lack of labour for industry.
- Lack of housing
- Market failure on land development due to overhead costs.

Shire of Woodanilling

- Nothing to report that had not already been mentioned.

10. FINANCIAL REPORT

10.1 Financial Report for the period 1 August to 31 October 2021 - attached.

Opening balance as at 1 August 2021	\$3,122.97
Total debits	(\$2,083.16)
Total credits	\$770.00
Closing balance as at 31 October 2021	\$1,809.81

MOVED Cr Fiona Gaze

SECONDED Cr Jon Oldfield

That the financial statement for the period 1 August to 31 October 2021 be accepted as true and accurate records of the Zone's finances.

CARRIED 19-0

11. REPORTS

No	Organisation / Delegates	Updates / Info
11.1	Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG) Delegate: Cr Russel Thomson (Shire of Woodanilling)	Next meeting due on 26 November 2021. Refer to Zone item 8.4 above. <i>Ongoing issue - Movement of Agricultural Machinery.</i> Cr Thomson had nothing further to report.
11.2	Great Southern District Leadership Group (formerly Great Southern Human Services Forum)	Executive Officer emailed the Dept of Communities about new Local Government representative but has yet to receive a reply.
11.3	Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)	No nominations received for a DEMC delegate at 2021 Zone AGM. This position remains vacant.
11.4	South Coast Natural Resource Management (SCNRM) Delegate: Cr Jon Oldfield (Shire of Plantagenet)	New delegate on South Coast NRM's Land & Water Reference Group is Cr Jon Oldfield.
11.5	Great Southern Development Commission	Nil.
11.6	Great Southern RoadWise – Vivienne Gardiner (based in Albany).	Refer to attached report dated November 2021. New Great Southern Road Safety Adviser is Vivienne Gardner has commenced in the role but is an apology for this meeting.
11.7	Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries	As per Tim Fraser's presentation above.
11.8	Executive Officer	Nil.
11.9	Outdoors Great Southern	Outdoors Great Southern has offered to give a brief presentation to a Zone meeting in 2022 if required.

12. Guest Speaker

Murray Carter, Executive Director of the Rural Fire Division of DFES

Key points of the presentation:-

- Significant Rural Fire Division reforms within DFES over the last 3 years.
- His position was created to re-focus more on the bushfire space.
- Current Commissioner Darren Klemm has forged closer relationship with WALGA.
- Land Use Planning reforms.
- Wooroloo Bushfire Review - report is due early December 2021.
- Work Health & Safety Act.
- COVID-19 vaccinations.

Question on notice from Cr Kevin Gale, Shire of Kojonup

Kojonup's bushfire brigades are concerned that insurance for bushfire brigade volunteers does not cover them for workers' compensation claims. For example, are farmers/bushfire brigade volunteers covered for workers compensation when they are fighting fires on other people's properties?

ACTION: Murray Carter to investigate and respond to the Zone.

Close of meeting: 1.15pm.