



**THE  
KIMBERLEY  
ZONE**

Meeting Minutes

13 February 2026

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## 1. Kimberley Country Zone Meeting Open: 9:02am

Chair acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the different lands on which people met today, and paid respect to all the Elders past, present and emerging.

## 2. Attendance and Apologies

Name	Shire / Council / Organisation	Method
<b>Members</b>		
Cr David Menzel	Zone Chair, and President, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	In Person
Cr Chris Mitchell	President, Shire of Broome	In Person
Peter McCumstie	President, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	In Person
<b>Observers</b>		
Sam Mastrolembo	CEO, Shire of Broome	In Person
Tamara Clarkson	CEO, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	In Person
Kerrissa O'Meara	Deputy President, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	In Person
Wayne Neate	Director Infrastructure, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	In Person
Luke Lawrence	Director Community Planning, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	In Person
Jill Brazil	Director Corporate Services, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	In Person
Trish Gault	Council Member, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Zoom
Vernon Lawrence	CEO, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	In Person
Cr Tony Chafer	Deputy Shire President, SWEK	In Person
Susan Leonard	CEO, Shire of Halls Creek	Zoom
<b>Executive Support Team</b>		
Paul Rosair	Principal NAJA Business Consulting	Zoom
Michelle Mackenzie	Principal Mira Consulting	In Person
Jane Lewis	Principal Redit Research	Zoom
Rebecca Billing	Administrative Assistant, NAJA Business Consulting	Zoom
<b>Apologies</b>		

Name	Shire / Council / Organisation	Method
Steven Pereira	President, Shire of Christmas Island	
David Price	CEO, Shire of Christmas Island	
Isa Minkom	President, Cocos (Keeling) Islands	
Matthew Scott	CEO, Cocos (Keeling) Islands	
Tony Lacy	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	
Cr Azah Badlu	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	
Cr Brenda Garstone	President, Shire of Halls Creek	
Cr Karen Chappel	President, WALGA	
<b>Guests</b>		
Nick Sloan	CEO, WALGA	Zoom
Keith Williams	Acting CEO, Kimberley Development Commission	Zoom

### 3. Disclosures, Conflicts and Declarations of Interest:

Financial Interest / Impartiality			
Member	Item Number	Item	Nature of Interest
Nil			

## **4. Kimberley Country Zone State Council Agenda:**

**Attachments:**

**1 President's Report**

**2 WALGA State Council Agenda and Report on State Council Actions (Separately Attached)**

### **1.1 Presidents Report – Attachment 1**



WALGA

# President's Report

## March 2026

### Introduction

As I put pen to paper for my last report as WALGA President, I pause and reflect on what has been an exhaustive but incredibly rewarding four years in the role. It is an extraordinary privilege to represent the State's 139 Local Governments and one that I have never taken for granted. In preparing these reports, I have often reflected that they never adequately capture the scope and relentless nature of the role. However, the work has never bothered me given the opportunity to leverage outcomes that benefit our entire State – something that I have relished so much.

I'd like to thank every one of the Elected Members and Officers that I have engaged with – not just as your President but as WALGA Deputy President and State Councillor. You do amazing work, often under trying conditions and with very little recognition of your efforts. Know that I see this and appreciate everything you do. I will continue to champion Local Government and the importance of what you do well after I step away from this role. Local Government is often derided and the target of critics. For those of us who live and love the institution of Local Government, we know the importance of what we do, as do our communities. I look forward to seeing the sector continue to thrive as we face new and exciting challenges together.

### Political Engagement

WALGA's political engagement activities have moderated in the past two months as Parliament rose for the year, with efforts focused on reviewing and refining the Association's strategic approach for 2026.

Since the last State Council meeting, WALGA has met with Hon Julie Freeman MLC to discuss key sector issues relevant to her portfolios of Road Safety and Arts and Culture.

Further meetings have been held with Hon Merredith Hammat MLA, Minister for Health and Mental Health, and Hon John Carey MLA, Minister for Planning; Lands; Housing and Works; and Health Infrastructure.

In response to the current political environment, WALGA has refreshed its political engagement strategies for 2026, prioritising the maintenance of strong relationships with key Ministers while also strengthening engagement with influential backbenchers and Opposition spokespeople.

A key priority for the first quarter of 2026 is to brief decision-makers on WALGA's State Budget Submission.

### Federal Budget Submission

The Federal Assistant Treasurer has recently invited submissions for the 2026–27 Budget.

Each year, ALGA prepares a national submission on behalf of the Local Government sector. WALGA has provided a complementary submission seeking commitments to address several priority issues of particular importance to Western Australian Local Governments, including:

- Additional ongoing, formula-based targeted funding streams for Local Governments to provide certainty and enable effective planning for community needs
- A Commonwealth funding contribution to match the Western Australian Government commitment to apply proven road safety countermeasures on 1,474km of regional roads, representing the prioritised sections of the proposed Regional Road Safety Program.
- A dedicated Coastal Hazard Adaptation program to support Local Governments in managing coastal risks.
- Funding support to address the gaps in the Long-Term Cycle Network
- Dedicated mitigation and resilience funding for councils across Australia build their capacity and capability to respond to emergencies in our communities.
- Support for rural and remote Local Governments in Western Australia to offset the costs of providing essential primary healthcare services until long-term funding and workforce solutions are established.

WALGA's submission has been provided to all WA Members of Federal Parliament to highlight these priority initiatives.

### **Media Engagement**

As the authoritative voice for Western Australian Local Government, WALGA continues to engage proactively with the media to advocate on behalf of our Members to drive better outcomes for Local Governments and their communities.

Since the last report, I have undertaken a number of media interviews to promote WALGA's 2026-27 State Budget Submission. This has included an interview with ABC Radio's Geraldine Mellet on the Mornings Program highlighting WALGA's Emergency Management funding requests and 6PR's Russell Collett about important measures to boost and protect WA's tree canopy.

WALGA commentary has been featured in The Sunday Times on several occasions including calls for funding to grow WA's tree canopy and stop the spread of the Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer, calls for an independent organisation to undertake a broad review of rating exemptions, and the important measures required to assist Local Governments deliver more active transport infrastructure, interventions, and supporting initiatives around schools.

### **Urban Greening Strategy**

Following sustained WALGA advocacy it was pleasing that the State Government has finally released the long awaited Urban Greening Strategy for Perth and Peel. While the Strategy does not deliver on all of WALGA's priorities – notably effective measures to reduce tree loss on private land – it does align with WALGA's 30% by 2040 target. Much more will be required to reach this target and WALGA has been clear on the sector's continued commitment to increasing tree canopy in urban areas across the State.

## **WALGA Training**

The 2026 WALGA Training Calendar is now available on the WALGA website, offering a comprehensive range of professional development opportunities for Elected Members and officers across the sector.

I particularly encourage Members to engage with the Council Member Essentials (CME) program, which all newly elected members are required to undertake in the first 12 months of being elected. For the first time since the training was introduced, those who were re-elected last year may also be required to complete the CME unless one of the exemptions in the Regulations applies.

The legislative amendments that came into effect on 1 January 2026 introduced a new requirement for Elected Members to provide a declaration to the CEO that they have either passed the CME assessments or were exempt from the requirement to do so within one month of the completion deadline. The CEO must now also notify the Local Government Inspector if an Elected Member fails to do so.

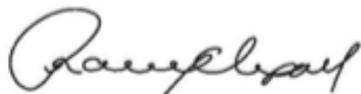
## **In closing**

It is with both a sense of pride and a tinge of sadness that I sign off this report as my final one as your President. I am proud that I leave WALGA in a position where it is respected and valued by its members and stakeholders. This has been achieved by the outstanding leadership of our CEO, Nick Sloan, and the commitment of every single member of the WALGA team who endeavour at all times to support our members. The WALGA team truly is amazing.

I will never forget what a privilege it has been to serve you, and I will treasure the memories.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to Deputy President, Paul Kelly for his unwavering support and to Nick Sloan for not only supporting me, but for his friendship.

For every kind word, smile and handshake offered to me during my tenure, I thank you, it has been welcomed and very much appreciated.



**President Cr Karen Chappel AM JP  
WALGA President**

## President's Contacts

The President's contacts since 3 December 2025 and scheduled before 4 March 2026 are as follows:

### State and Commonwealth Government Relations

- National Emergency Management Ministers Meeting
- Hon Paul Papalia MLA, Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services'; Defence Industries; Veterans; Racing and Gaming
- Australian Government Black Spot – WA Consultative Panel Meeting
- Hon Meredith Hammat MLA, Minister for Health, Mental Health

### Zone Meetings

- Northern Country Zone
- Kimberley Zone
- North Metropolitan Zone
- East Metropolitan Zone
- South West Country Zone

### Local Government Relations

- **State Council Meetings**
  - State Council Meeting, 3 December
  - Strategic Forum, 3 December
  - Corporate Governance Charter Workshop
  - State Council Information Forum, 4 February
  - Local Government House Trust
  - Finance and Services Committee
- **ALGA**
  - Board meeting, 11 September
  - Board Strategic Planning Sessions, 11-12 February
- **LGIS**
  - Internal Audit Workshop
  - JLT Management Committee Meeting
  - Risk and Compliance Meeting
  - Board Meeting, 30 January
- The Role of Mayors and Presidents
- WALGA Wrap 2025
- Shire of Augusta Margaret River, President Julia Jean Rice and CEO, Andrea Selvey
- Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund Board Meeting and Annual General Meeting
- City of Joondalup Mayor Daniel Kingston and CEO, James Pearson
- A WALGA Cheers
- WALGA Certificate 3 Virtual Graduation

## 1.2 Reports from Representatives

WALGA –

- Nick Sloan, CEO

### 5.2.1 Reports from Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety Report

To be distributed once available

### 5.3 Reports from Kimberley Country Zone

Zone Delegates are invited to read and consider the WALGA State Council Agenda, which has been provided as an attachment with this Agenda and can be found via the link [here](#).

The Zone can provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation on any of the items, including the items for noting.

The Zone comment will then be presented to the State Council for consideration at the meeting on 4 March 2026. The State Council Agenda items requiring a decision of State Council are extracted for Zone consideration below.

#### 5.3.1 Item/Matters for Decision

Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations
<p><b>9.1 Aviation Advocacy Positions</b></p>	<p><b>RECOMMENDATION</b></p> <p><b>That the Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 9.1 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided below.</b></p> <p><b>WALGA RECOMMENDATION</b></p> <p>That State Council endorse two new Advocacy Positions on Aviation as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Regional Airports <i>WALGA supports the sustainable operation of Local Government owned regional airports and advocates for proportionate regulatory frameworks, targeted funding, and operational guidance to ensure safe, efficient, and resilient airport infrastructure and services.</i></li> <li>2. Regional and Remote Air Services <i>WALGA advocates for reliable, affordable, and equitable regional air services, calling for greater oversight of airline pricing practices, including transparent fare structures and equitable access to discounted and lower-cost fares, to mitigate the impacts of limited competition and dynamic pricing on regional residents, businesses, and essential travel. WALGA also promotes the continued viability of essential routes and recognises regional aviation as an essential service supporting community access, workforce mobility, and regional economic development.</i></li> </ol>

Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations
	<p><b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two new Advocacy Positions are proposed to strengthen WALGA's aviation advocacy framework and to inform WALGA's response to future inquiries and/or consultation relating to aviation.</li> <li>• The aim of the new positions is to provide clearer and more contemporary guidance on:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the sustainability and ongoing viability of Local Government-owned regional airports; and</li> <li>○ the affordability, reliability and accessibility of regional and remote air services for Western Australian communities.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The proposed positions will assist WALGA to advocate more effectively on behalf of its Members by:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ clearly articulating the essential service role of aviation in regional, rural and remote Western Australia;</li> <li>○ strengthening WALGA's capacity to engage with State and Commonwealth governments on aviation policy and funding; and</li> <li>○ supporting Local Governments facing regulatory, financial and service-delivery challenges associated with regional aviation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The development of the proposed Advocacy Positions has been informed by engagement with a sample of Local Governments, which highlighted shared concerns regarding high regional airfares, service reliability, capacity constraints and the role of aviation in supporting health access, emergency response and regional economic development.</li> <li>• WALGA currently has two existing aviation Advocacy Positions; however, feedback from Local Governments clarified that the inclusion of additional, targeted policy positions is essential to better reflect contemporary challenges and to strengthen support for Councils.</li> <li>• The proposed positions build on existing WALGA policy and provide a stronger basis for:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ sector advocacy;</li> <li>○ engagement with State Council and Zones to seek feedback; and</li> <li>○ informing WALGA's potential submission to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Regional Airfares.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>POLICY IMPLICATIONS</b></p> <p>The current <a href="#">WALGA Advocacy Positions</a> relating to Aviation are positions 5.9 Aviation and 5.9.1 Airfare Pricing in Regional Western Australia. The proposed new positions would be in addition to these existing positions.</p> <p><b>5.9 Aviation</b></p> <p>Position Statement <i>The Local Government sector supports the Department of Transport's State Aviation Strategy 2020, with more focus required on non-RPT airports to ensure it is representative of all of WA, more focus on general aviation development across WA and noting that the preferred ownership and governance of Local Governments is Council Controlled Organisations.</i></p>

Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations
	<p><i>The Local Government sector advocates for a clear position on the economic benefit of airports in regional areas to be included in the future state wide Airports State Planning Policy.</i></p> <p><b>5.9.1. Airfare Pricing in Regional Western Australia</b></p> <p>Position Statement <i>The Local Government sector supports:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>An evidence-based assessment commissioned by the State Government to determine the degree to which market structure and other factors influence the cost of providing air services on each route, the pricing structure offered and the actual prices paid.</i></li> <li>2. <i>The State Government providing oversight of airfares ensuring transparency, encouraging partnerships between Local Governments and airline carriers to grow the market and the provision of subsidies in some situations.</i></li> </ol>

## 1.6 Other State Council Agenda Items

Zone Delegates are invited to raise for discussion, questions or decision any of the items in the State Council Agenda, including the items for noting, Policy Team and Committee Reports or the Key Activity Reports.

## 1.4 Status Report on State Council Resolutions

Meeting	Resolution	Comment	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
<b>3 December 2025</b> Item 7.1 Transport Oriented Development Advocacy Position	That: 1. State Council request WALGA to prepare an Advocacy Position in consultation with members, regarding the transport and planning principals required to ensure quality outcomes in the newly announced "Station Precinct Improvement Plans and Schemes" in Metropolitan Perth and regional stations if included. 2. The Advocacy Position includes transport and place-making outcomes on both government controlled and private land that maximise liveability and use of the public transport network.  RESOLUTION 069.5/2025	<p>The Environment Policy Team considered this issue at its meeting on 14 January 2026 and was concerned to ensure that WALGA does not delay advocating on this issue while waiting for a new specific position to be developed and endorsed by State Council.</p> <p>WALGA has commenced consultation on a new position with an initial focus on immediately impacted Local Governments and in the meantime will make representations to Government under cover of existing positions.</p>	Ongoing	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy
<b>3 December 2025</b> Item 8.1 2025 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	That: 1. the following resolutions from the 2025 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the People and Place Policy Team for further work to be undertaken: 7.1 Provision of Medical Services in Remote and Very Remote Local Governments 7.2 Homelessness – Short-term Accommodation Solutions  RESOLUTION 070.5/2025  <i>The AGM resolutions are as follows:</i>  <b>7.1 Provision of Medical Services in Remote and Very Remote Local Governments</b>	<p>Improving access to primary healthcare services in rural and remote areas remains an advocacy priority for WALGA. This is reflected in the current <a href="#">Federal</a> and <a href="#">State</a> Budget Submissions and aligned to the <a href="#">revised Advocacy Position</a> endorsed by State Council in September 2025.</p> <p>WALGA is exploring opportunities for partnership advocacy on this matter with health sector stakeholders. This work includes developing solution options.</p>	Ongoing	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy



	<p><i>That WALGA calls on the Western Australian Government and WA Grants Commission to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. increase the total funding and then the Medical Facilities Cost Adjuster component of the Financial Assistance Grants to Local Governments; and</i></li> <li><i>2. recalculate distributions to those Local Governments that are providing block cash payments to attract and retain general practitioners to allow affected Council to redirect ratepayer funds to Local Government responsibilities.</i></li> </ol> <p><b>7.2 Homelessness – Short-term Accommodation Solutions</b>  <i>That WALGA advocate to the State Government to provide culturally appropriate short term accommodation options and wrap-around support services that provide sustainable homelessness solutions in all Local Governments across Western Australia.</i></p>	<p>WALGA will present developments to the April People and Place Policy Team meeting for consideration.</p> <p>WALGA is currently reviewing its <a href="#">homelessness Advocacy Position</a>. A Local Government Homelessness Survey is scheduled to open in early February to inform the review.</p> <p>WALGA will consider the matter of short-term accommodation as part of the review and report to the April 2026 People and Place Policy Team meeting.</p>		
<p><b>3 December 2025</b>                  Item 8.1 2025                  Annual General Meeting                  Resolutions</p>	<p>That:                  ...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. the following resolution from the 2025 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Governance Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:                      7.4 Rating Exemption Advocacy Position</li> </ol> <p>RESOLUTION 070.5/2025</p> <p><i>The AGM resolution is as follows:</i></p> <p><b>7.4 Rating Exemption Advocacy Position</b></p>	<p>This item has been referred to the Governance Policy Team for further consideration. It is intended to be included in the March Governance Policy Team Agenda.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Kirsty Martin                  Executive                  Manager Member                  Services</p>



	<p><i>That WALGA, in addition to its current advocacy positions 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 relating to rating exemptions, advocate to the WA Government for the introduction of a reimbursement model, whereby the WA Government repays Local Government the greater of:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. 75% of the value of rates lost in applying the charitable purposes exemption; or</i></li> <li><i>2. 1% of the total rate revenue of the Local Government.</i></li> </ol>			
<p><b>3 December 2025</b> Item 8.1 2025 Annual General Meeting Resolutions</p>	<p>That: ...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. the following resolution from the 2025 WALGA Annual General Meeting be endorsed: 7.5 Rateability of Miscellaneous Licences</li> </ol> <p>RESOLUTION 070.5/2025</p> <p><i>The AGM resolution is as follows:</i></p> <p><b>7.5 Rateability of Miscellaneous Licences</b> <i>That WALGA:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. Formally oppose any move by the Local Government Minister to introduce amendments to the Local Government Act to restrict the application of rates on Miscellaneous Licences.</i></li> <li><i>2. Develop an advocacy position on sector consultation prior to any amendment to the Local Government Act.</i></li> <li><i>3. Undertake a financial analysis of the cost to the Mining Industry of the rating of Miscellaneous Licences compared to the benefit to the Local Government sector.</i></li> </ol>	<p>This item has been referred to the Governance Policy Team for further consideration. It is intended to be included in the March Governance Policy Team Agenda.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services</p>



<p><b>3 December 2025</b> Item 8.2 2026 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members</p>	<p>That State Council endorse the submission to the 2026 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members, with the following additions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A new recommendation that the Regional/Isolation Allowance be reviewed in full, noting that the application of the Allowance is inequal and inconsistent.</li> <li>2. A new recommendation that an appropriate fee be set for the deputy to the presiding member of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees to attend meetings.</li> <li>3. A new recommendation that the travel costs incurred while driving a privately owned or leased vehicle be calculated at the same rate contained in the <i>Public Service Award 1992</i> to bring it in parity with the public sector.</li> <li>4. The percentage values in recommendations 1 and 2 of the submission be amended from 3% to 4%.</li> <li>5. Include a work-value argument regarding Elected Member remuneration to strengthen the case for an increase to Elected Member fees and allowances, and to refer the request to reclassify Elected Members as not volunteers to the relevant Policy Team.</li> </ol> <p>RESOLUTION 073.5/2025</p>	<p>The submission to SAT was updated to include those additional points and provided to the Tribunal on 6 January 2026.</p> <p>The <a href="#">Advocacy Positions Manual</a> has also been updated to reflect the recommendations contained in the submission.</p> <p>The request to reclassify Elected Members as not volunteers (as per point 5 of the resolution) has been referred to the Governance Policy Team for further consideration.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Rachel Horton Executive Manager Advocacy</p> <p>Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services</p>
<p><b>3 December 2025</b> Item 8.3 Tourism Advocacy Position Update</p>	<p>That State Council replace Advocacy Position 3.9 Tourism with an updated position as follows:</p> <p><i>WALGA calls on the State Government to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Fund the implementation of the WA Visitor Economy Strategy and the supporting Tourism Destination</i></li> </ol>	<p>The <a href="#">Advocacy Positions Manual</a> has been updated.</p>	<p>COMPLETE</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>



	<p><i>Management Plans and Regional Tourism Development Strategies, including for:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a. maintenance and renewal of Local Government assets and services that underpin a positive visitor experience</i></li> <li><i>b. new and existing tourism infrastructure</i></li> <li><i>c. improving telecommunications infrastructure</i></li> <li><i>d. measures to reduce the cost and improve the scheduling and routes of regional air services</i></li> <li><i>e. accredited Visitor Centres.</i></li> </ol> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>2. Ensure that tourism destinations with a significant seasonal visitor influx have adequate medical and emergency services and reliable telecommunications.</i></li> <li><i>3. Articulate a clear tourism governance framework with defined roles and responsibilities to facilitate coordination and collaboration of tourism activities across the State.</i></li> <li><i>4. Adequately consult and consider Local Government when undertaking strategic tourism planning across Western Australia.</i></li> <li><i>5. Provide improved access to affordable, timely and granular data that delivers LGA-level insights on visitation, spend and event impacts.</i></li> </ol> <p>RESOLUTION 074.5/2025</p>			
<p><b>3 December 2025</b> Item 8.4 Waste Management Advocacy Positions</p>	<p>That State Council retire Advocacy Positions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 7.2 State Waste Strategy;</li> <li>2. 7.3 Waste Authority; and</li> <li>3. 7.11 Waste Management and Resource Recovery Partnership Agreement.</li> </ol> <p>RESOLUTION 075.5/2025</p>	<p>The <a href="#">Advocacy Positions Manual</a> has been updated.</p>	<p>COMPLETE</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>



<p><b>3 December 2025</b> Item 8.5 Electoral Material – Authorisation Statement Address Requirements</p>	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. WALGA advocate to the State Government to amend section 4.87 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> to:                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Replace the requirement to include the name and address of the person authorising the electoral material, with a requirement to include the name and locality of the person authorising the material.</li> <li>b. Remove the requirement for the name and business address of the electoral material printer to appear at the end of the electoral material.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. The suggestion from the South East Metropolitan Zone to advocate to amend section 5.95 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> to specify that the right to inspect Primary and Annual Returns contained in the Register of Financial Interests under s.5.94(b) does not extend to the residential address of the relevant person be referred to the Governance Policy Team so that a full report can be presented to State Council for consideration.</li> </ol> <p>RESOLUTION 077.5/2025</p>	<p>The <a href="#">Advocacy Positions Manual</a> has been updated.</p> <p>Resolution 2 has been referred to the Governance Policy Team and is intended to be included in the March Agenda.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services</p>
<p><b>5 September 2025</b> Item 8.2 Rating of Miscellaneous Licenses</p>	<p>That WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advocate for Local Governments to continue to have the ability to rate miscellaneous licences under the <i>Mining Act 1978</i>; and</li> <li>2. Oppose legislative amendments that seek to exempt occupied miscellaneous licence land from rating.</li> <li>3. Continue to advocate for a broad review to be conducted into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption</li> </ol>	<p>The <a href="#">Advocacy Positions Manual</a> has been updated.</p> <p>Correspondence has been sent to the Premier and Minister for Local Government. Opposition parties have been briefed.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services</p>

	<p>categories currently prescribed under section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 050.4/2025</p>	<p>In addition, funding for the broad review of rating exemptions is included in the State Budget submission.</p>		
<p><b>5 September 2025</b> Item 8.6 Advocacy Positions on Active Transport and Micromobility</p>	<p>That WALGA endorse the proposed advocacy positions on Active Transport and micromobility subject to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The following item added to the Priority Actions of the Funding Position Statement:  <i>Allocate dedicated funding to deliver safe, pedestrian- and bicycle-priority crossing points on local and distributor roads, particularly around schools, community hubs, and public transport nodes, to support safe and accessible active transport journeys.</i></li> <li>2. Request the CEO to prepare an Active Transport Advocacy Plan for WALGA including, but not limited to, funding models to achieve the advocacy positions.</li> <li>3. That the Plan be brought back to the Infrastructure Policy Team for discussion.</li> </ol> <p>RESOLUTION 055.4/2025</p>	<p>The <a href="#">Advocacy Positions Manual</a> has been updated.</p>	<p>COMPLETE</p>	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure</p>
<p><b>2 July 2025</b> Item 8.1 Suspension and Disqualification for</p>	<p>That WALGA defers consideration of this matter for further work, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. defining appropriately serious offences for intervention; and</li> <li>b. addressing the role of the Local Government Inspector.</li> </ol>	<p>Work has commenced on defining appropriately serious offences for intervention.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services</p>

<p>Offences Advocacy Position</p>	<p>c. evaluating whether advocacy for disqualification based on convictions under the Planning and Development Act 2005 and Building Act 2011 should be retained.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 037.3/2025</p>	<p>Consideration of how the Office of the Inspector affects this position is awaiting the release of regulations pertaining to the office.</p>		
<p><b>5 March 2025</b> Item 9.1 Infrastructure Policy Team Report</p>	<p>That State Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note the report from the Infrastructure Policy Team for the 5 March 2025 meeting.</li> <li>2. Determine to:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Delete Advocacy Position 5.2.8 (Towards Zero Road Safety Strategy 2008 – 2020).</li> <li>b. Amend the title of Advocacy Position 5.2.7 from Road Safety Strategy (Imagine Zero) to Driving Change Road Safety Strategy 2020-2030.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Undertake further policy development and consultation with Members regarding the default open road speed limit in Western Australia.</li> </ol> <p>RESOLUTION 013.1/2025</p>	<p>The <a href="#">Advocacy Positions Manual</a> has been updated.</p> <p>The Infrastructure Policy Team resolved to recommend WALGA engage an independent specialist to develop a framework to support the Local Government sector in decision making and advocacy relating to speed limits.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure</p>
<p><b>6 December 2024</b> Item 8.1 2024 Annual General Meeting Resolutions</p>	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the item 7.1 Amendments to <i>Cat Act 2011</i> - Allow Local Governments to Make Local Laws to Contain Cats to the Owner's Property be endorsed.</li> <li>...</li> <li>3. the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Governance Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7.2 Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-Banking</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>The <a href="#">Advocacy Positions Manual</a> has been updated.</p> <p>WALGA, and other key stakeholders, received a briefing on the proposed amendments to the <i>Cat Act 2011</i> which will allow Local Governments to include cat containment in Local Laws. WALGA will continue to engage with Local Government and advocate that for effective implementation of these</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services</p>



	<p>7.3 Advocacy for Expansion of Differential Rating to Include Long Term Unoccupied Commercial Buildings (Property Activation Levy).</p> <p>RESOLUTION 089.5/2024</p>	<p>changes a collaborative, and resourced, approach will be needed.</p> <p>WALGA sought legal advice which confirmed that amendments to the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> (the Act) would be required to allow differential rating based on occupancy status.</p> <p>A joint meeting of the Governance and Environment Policy teams was held on 12 September. The Joint Policy Teams considered that there was a significant level of risk associated with the proposal and that it should not proceed. Instead, incentives and activation programs can be explored by Local Governments to encourage occupancy of buildings.</p>		
<p><b>6 December 2024</b> Item 8.1 2024 Annual General Meeting Resolutions</p>	<p>That: ... 2. the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Environment Policy Team for further work to be undertaken: 7.2 Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-Banking 7.4 Action on Asbestos for Western Australia 7.6 Advocacy for Accessibility. ...</p>	<p><b>Resolution 7.2</b> (regarding the planning related items within this resolution): The demolition of single houses is generally a form of development exempt from requiring development approval, and only a demolition permit is required for the complete or partial demolition, dismantling or removal of a building or an incidental structure. The current planning and building legislation do not allow the</p>	<p>COMPLETE</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>

	<p>RESOLUTION 089.5/2024</p>	<p>conditioning of approval or refusal of a building permit in a manner proposed by the AGM resolution.</p> <p>A joint meeting of the Environment and Governance Policy Teams has been scheduled for 12 September to consider this item.</p> <p><b>Resolution 7.4:</b> WALGA is engaging at the State and National level on this issue, including through membership of the WA Interagency Asbestos Group and nationally the Asbestos Safety Eradication Agency reference group and has raised the issues impacting Local Governments in relation to safe removal and disposal, including ensuring statewide options.</p> <p>WALGA continues to undertake work in this area and is scoping an asbestos survey for members to identify specific challenges, activities and opportunities.</p> <p><b>Resolution 7.6:</b> Liveable Housing Design Standard as part of the National Construction Code (NCC) provides a set of technical provisions that if complied</p>		
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		<p>with enable dwellings to better meet the needs of the community, including older people and people with mobility limitations. The code specifies seven minimum standards to ensure all new homes are accessible with modifications including step-free entrances and showers and wider doors and corridors that can accommodate wheelchairs and walking aids.</p> <p>All states enact the NCC through state legislation and regulation. A range of states are taking different approaches in terms of adopting the liveable housing requirements, but at time of writing all states except NSW and Western Australia have adopted the liveable housing provisions.</p> <p>The NCC 2022 only became operational in WA on 1 May. The appointment of a new Commerce Minister following the 2025 State Election provided an opportunity to engage on this matter.</p> <p>WALGA raised the prospects of WA adopting the standard at its meeting with the Minister in July 2025.</p>		
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		<p>On 24 August 2025, the Commonwealth Minister for Housing announced that they will work with states and territories to pause new residential regulation changes to the NCC until mid-2029, following the finalisation of NCC 2025. This pause will apply except for essential safety and quality changes.</p> <p>In light of this decision, which is supported by all State and Territory Governments, it is unlikely that changes to the NCC in WA to incorporate Liveable Housing Design Standard will occur in the near future.</p>		
<p><b>6 December 2024</b> Item 8.2 Local Government Elections Advocacy Positions</p>	<p>That item 1 be deferred, and the Secretariat further investigate implications of compulsory and voluntary participation in Local Government elections and report back to State Council.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 090.5/2024</p> <p>That WALGA adopt the following Elections Advocacy Positions:</p> <p><i>The Local Government sector supports:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Councillors serve four-year terms with elections every two years and half of the Council positions spilled at each election.</i></li> <li>2. <i>First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for Local Government elections. If Optional Preferential Voting</i></li> </ol>	<p>The <a href="#">Advocacy Positions Manual</a> has been updated.</p> <p>Correspondence has been sent to the Minister for Local Government advising on the five Advocacy Positions endorsed.</p> <p>Investigation of the implications of compulsory and voluntary voting continued with engagement from the Governance Policy Team.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services</p>

	<p><i>(OPV) remains as the primary method of voting, the sector supports the removal of the 'proportional' part of the voting method for general elections.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. <i>First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for internal Council elections.</i></li> <li>4. <i>Councils holding elections by means of in-person, postal and/or electronic voting.</i></li> <li>5. <i>Current legislative provisions of Mayor/President of Class 1 and Class 2 Local Governments being directly elected by the community and Class 3 and Class 4 Local Governments determining whether its Mayor or President is elected by the Council or by the community.</i></li> </ol> <p>RESOLUTION 091.5/2024</p>	<p>State Council endorsed a Discussion Paper for the purpose of sector consultation by Flying Minute on 20 January 2026 (see Agenda <a href="#">item 11.5</a>).</p>		
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## 1.5 COMPLETE ZONE STATUS REPORT

Nil.

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>People</b> Place Prosperity <b>Performance</b></p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Advocate</b>   <b>Facilitate</b> <b>Partner</b>   <b>Fund</b> <b>Promote</b>   <b>Monitor</b></p> </div>	Nil	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
<p><b>The Kimberley Country Zone:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Noted the report from the WALGA President</b></li> <li><b>2. Noted the State Council Agenda Items as circulated</b></li> <li><b>3. Supported the recommendations in the Matters for Decision contained within the State Council Agenda</b></li> <li><b>4. Acknowledged the Items for noting</b></li> <li><b>5. Acknowledged the Status Report on State Council Resolutions</b></li> <li><b>6. Noted the Kimberley Zone Status Report</b></li> </ol>			
<b>Moved:</b>	Shire of Broome	<b>Responsible:</b>	-
<b>Seconded:</b>	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	<b>Due date:</b>	-
<b>Carried:</b>	4/0		

## 5. Conclusion of Zone Matters: 9:56am

## 6. Water Management Discussion Paper Update

### For Discussion

Submitted by: Rebecca Brown, WALGA Policy Manager Environment and Waste

### Executive Summary

- WALGA has developed a Water Management in Western Australia Discussion Paper exploring issues for Local Governments in managing water resources.
- To inform the Discussion Paper, WALGA undertook research and direct engagement with the sector and reviewed existing Water Advocacy Positions and feedback from WALGA Zones.
- Based on this consultation, the Discussion Paper identifies water security and water efficiency as key themes.
- Feedback on the Discussion Paper will inform the development of a new water management advocacy position.
- Zones and Local Governments are encouraged to provide comments to WALGA by 12 March 2026.

### Policy Implications

This item relates to [WALGA Advocacy Positions](#) 3.1.1 Service Delivery to Aboriginal Communities, 4.3 Clearing Permits and Water Licenses and Permits, 6.10 Public Open Space (POS) and 6.14 Planning for Water.

### Attachment

- [Water Management in Western Australia Discussion Paper](#)

### Background

Local Governments contribute to the management of water through strategic planning, land management, development approvals, community behaviour change and, in some cases, direct water service provision. Local Governments' role in water service provision includes drainage, water use and re-use and aspects of wastewater and sewerage services. The challenges for future water management are escalating across Western Australia due to population growth, climate change and increased competition for limited water resources.

To inform the Discussion Paper WALGA reviewed its existing Water Advocacy Positions and motions, feedback from WALGA Zones and undertook research and direct consultation with the sector. Consultation included workshops with both metropolitan and non-metropolitan Local Governments, an online session with 40 officers focused on water security and efficiency and a regionally focused session with 30 Local Government representatives exploring the barriers to being waterwise in a

regional setting. In addition, WALGA conducted 14 one-on-one interviews with officers from 22 metropolitan, regional and remote Local Governments to better understand key issues. Further insights were gained through meetings with officers from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and the Water Corporation, as well as internal discussions with WALGA.

## Comment

From consultation and research WALGA has undertaken with Local Government, two key themes consistently emerged - water security and water efficiency.

Water security relates to the reliable availability, adequate quantity and acceptable quality of water needed to support human health, economic development and environmental amenity. Issues identified include:

- Infrastructure: Funding to repair and upgrade aging Local Government water infrastructure including irrigation, drainage and stormwater systems and to improve reliability of State-managed assets.
- Alternative Sources: Diversifying water supply through non-traditional sources such as recycled water, stormwater harvesting, or desalination to support community assets.
- Licensing: Reforming the current water licensing system, including equity, access and regulatory enforcement.
- Access: Addressing barriers to equitable water access, particularly for regional and remote communities.
- Use: Planning for water allocation and consumption across sectors.

Water efficiency is focused on reducing unnecessary water loss through better practices, technologies and infrastructure. Issues identified include:

- Technology: Adopting waterwise technologies to enhance water efficiency.
- Water Literacy and behaviour change: Increasing water literacy within Local Government and the community to support change management and adaptation within communities.
- Water Sensitive Urban Design: Improving understanding to encourage the adoption of efficient technologies and design standards to reduce water consumption across public and private infrastructure.

Local Governments across Western Australia are addressing water security and efficiency through various actions across strategic infrastructure planning, innovative water management practices and community awareness. A new Water Management Advocacy Position will ensure WALGA can effectively advocate on behalf of the sector in relation to this issue. The Discussion Paper includes options to address these issues and questions for the sector relating to each of the key areas.

Feedback on the Discussion Paper will inform the development of a new water management advocacy position. All Zones and Local Governments are encouraged to provide comments to WALGA by 12 March 2026.

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications			
<table border="1"> <tr> <td> <b>People</b> Place Prosperity <b>Performance</b> </td> <td> <b>Advocate</b> <b>Partner</b> Promote                             <b>Facilitate</b> Fund <b>Monitor</b> </td> </tr> </table>		<b>People</b> Place Prosperity <b>Performance</b>	<b>Advocate</b> <b>Partner</b> Promote <b>Facilitate</b> Fund <b>Monitor</b>	Nil	
<b>People</b> Place Prosperity <b>Performance</b>	<b>Advocate</b> <b>Partner</b> Promote <b>Facilitate</b> Fund <b>Monitor</b>				
Resolution/s		Action/s			
<p><b>The Kimberley Country Zone</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Discussed the Water Management in Western Australia Discussion Paper</b></li> <li><b>Advised the Executive Team of any feedback to be provided to WALGA to inform the development of a new Water Management Advocacy Position.</b></li> </ol>		Executive Team to provide the Kimberley Country Zone’s feedback to WALGA by 12 March 2026.			
<b>Moved:</b>	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	<b>Responsible:</b>	Executive Team		
<b>Seconded:</b>	Shire of Broome	<b>Due date:</b>	12 March 2026		
<b>Carried:</b>	4/0				

## 7. Disaster Ready Fund: Round 4 Anticipated to Open in March 2026

### For Noting

Submitted by: Rachel Armstrong, Policy Manager Emergency Management

### Details

The Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) is the Australian Government’s key funding program to support projects that reduce disaster risk and strengthen community resilience.

Round Four of the DRF is expected to open in March 2026 with approximately \$200 million available nationally. A strong focus on *construction-ready*, infrastructure-based mitigation projects with clear risk reduction benefits is expected. This is similar to Round 3 which prioritised infrastructure-based projects such as flood levees, cyclone shelters, warning systems. A list of Round 3 projects funded is available at [Disaster Ready Fund | NEMA](#).

WALGA is providing early notice to Zones and member Local Governments to consideration of both individual and collaborative project opportunities, and pre-planning ahead of the formal announcement.

The DRF is administered by DFES, in Western Australia. Further information is available at [Disaster Resilience Grants - Department of Fire and Emergency Services](#) and by emailing [DisasterResilienceGrants@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:DisasterResilienceGrants@dfes.wa.gov.au).

DRF Round 4 is likely to be released in March 2026, and encourage Local Governments to consider shared or individual disaster risk reduction projects

WALGA will advise the Sector when the DRF is formally announced.

Resolution/s	Action/s
Noted	

## 8. 2026 Local Government Honours Awards

### For Noting

Submitted by: Habiba Farrag, State Council Governance Officer

### Details

The Honours Program recognises and celebrates the outstanding achievements and lasting contributions made by Elected Members and officers to their respective Local Government, the Local Government sector, WALGA and the wider community.

There are five awards in the 2026 Program:

1. Local Government Medal
2. Life Membership
3. Eminent Service Award
4. Merit Award
5. Young Achievers Award

All Local Government Elected Members and officers are eligible for nomination for each award.

Nominations are open now and will close at **5:00pm on Thursday, 2 April 2026**.

Further information about the 2026 Honours Program, including the nomination form and guidelines for preparing nominations, are available on the [WALGA website](#).

All awards will be presented later this year at the WALGA Local Government Awards event. More details about the event will be announced shortly.

For more information contact Habiba Farrag, State Council Governance Officer, on 9213 2050 or via email [honours@walga.asn.au](mailto:honours@walga.asn.au).

Resolution/s	Action/s
Noted	

## 9. Consultation on Draft Climate Change Advocacy Position

### For Noting

Submitted by: Rebecca Brown, WALGA Policy Manager Environment and Waste

### Executive Summary

- WALGA is undertaking consultation on a revised Climate Change Advocacy Position.
- This Draft was developed following initial consultation, consideration by State Council in March 2025 and feedback from the Environment Policy Team of State Council.
- Since WALGA's current Advocacy Position and Policy Statement were endorsed in 2018, there have been significant legislative, policy, technological and scientific changes.
- An updated climate change advocacy position, which complements other WALGA advocacy positions, will provide a sound basis for WALGA's advocacy.
- WALGA is seeking Council endorsed feedback by 1 May 2026.

### Policy Implications

This item is intended to replace WALGA's 2018 Climate Change [Advocacy Position](#) and [Policy Statement](#).

### Attachment

The Consultation Paper is available [online](#).

### Background

Climate change, and related legislation, policy and action, have implications for many aspects of Local Governments' operations and services. More frequent and severe droughts, heatwaves, bushfires, extreme rainfall events and warming, rising sea levels are increasing the costs and complexity of delivering critical services, infrastructure and ensuring community wellbeing.

In 2018, State Council endorsed a [Climate Change Policy Statement](#) and advocacy position, following extensive sector consultation. Since this Advocacy Position was adopted there have been significant legislative, policy, technological and scientific changes, including:

- The national *Climate Change Act 2022* and the Western Australian Climate Change Bill 2023.

- The *Local Government Amendment Act 2023*, which expanded Western Australian Local Governments’ general function to include planning for, and mitigating, the risks associated with climate change.
- The release of the Australian Government’s [National Climate Risk Assessment](#) and [National Adaptation Plan](#) in 2025.
- Escalation of the transition to renewable energy, uptake of electric vehicles and energy efficiency standards under the National Construction Code.
- Climate science and projections ([international](#), [national](#) and [WA specific](#)) have also become clearer regarding the risks posed by climate change and the need for action to address the consequential impacts.

## Comment

It is important that the WALGA climate change advocacy position is updated to reflect these changes and the consequent needs and priorities of Local Governments. An updated climate change advocacy position, which complements other WALGA advocacy positions, will provide a sound basis for WALGA’s advocacy.

Following initial consultation, consideration by State Council in March 2025 and feedback from the Environment Policy Team, WALGA has developed a revised, draft Climate Change Advocacy Position for Local Government feedback.

WALGA Environment and Waste Team members will be attending Zone meetings in April 2026 to support zone discussions on the draft Advocacy Position.

WALGA is seeking Council endorsed feedback on the draft Climate Change Advocacy Position by **COB Friday, 1 May 2026**. Feedback can be provided to [environment@walga.asn.au](mailto:environment@walga.asn.au).

Following consideration of this feedback a final draft advocacy position will be developed and provided to Zones and State Council for consideration, expected to be in July 2026.

Resolution/s	Action/s
Noted	

## 10. Draft Renewable Energy Planning Code

### For Noting

Submitted by: Kieran McGovern, Senior Policy Advisor, Planning

### Executive Summary

- WALGA Advocacy Position 6.17 Renewable Energy Facilities calls for changes to the renewable energy State planning framework to ensure it is fit for purpose to guide the ongoing development of the sector.
- The State Government has released a draft Renewable Energy Planning Code and Guidelines with the aim of establishing a consistent assessment framework, clear development standards, and improved certainty around impacts such as noise, landscape, environmental considerations, and safety.
- The Code initially focuses on wind farms but is designed to expand to other renewable technologies, requiring detailed technical reporting and encouraging (but not regulating) community benefit-sharing agreements.
- Proposed regulatory amendments would align local planning schemes with the Code and classify renewable energy projects valued at \$20 million or more as mandatory significant development, shifting decision-making authority to the WAPC.
- WALGA strongly encourages consideration of the draft Code by Zones. Local Governments should make their own submissions on the draft Code by 10 April 2026 and provide feedback to WALGA to inform our submission on behalf of the sector by 27 February 2026. Council endorsed submissions are preferred.

### Policy Implications

WALGA's proposed advocacy approach is consistent with WALGA [Advocacy Positions](#):

- 6.1 Planning Principles and Reform
- 6.4 State Development Applications and Decision Making
- 6.16 Energy Transition Engagement and Community Benefit Framework
- 6.17 Renewable Energy Facilities
- 6.18 Priority Agriculture.

### Attachment

- [Draft Renewable Energy Planning Code and Guidelines](#)
- [Information Sheet - Proposed Amendments to Local Planning Scheme Regulations](#)
- [Information Sheet - Proposed Amendments to Significant Development Regulations](#)
- [WALGA summary of the draft Renewable Energy Planning Code](#)

## Background

The growth in the number, size, and complexity of renewable energy facilities across Western Australia is expected to continue as energy generation and other traditional industries de-carbonise their facilities and operations. As a result, the placement and management of renewable energy facilities have become contentious issues in local communities across Western Australia.

In September 2024, WALGA's State Council endorsed three advocacy positions to address concerns related to renewable energy. Advocacy Position 6.17 Renewable Energy Facilities noted that the existing Western Australian Planning Commission's (WAPC) Position Statement: Renewable energy facilities was inadequate to address these concerns, leading to inconsistent application and approvals of renewable energy facilities across the State.

The advocacy position calls for the existing Position Statement: Renewable Energy Facilities to be elevated to a State planning policy, to provide the highest level of planning policy control and ensure the state planning framework is fit for purpose to guide the ongoing development of the sector.

On 12 December 2025, the State Government released a draft Renewable Energy Planning Code (the Code) and associated Guidelines for public consultation. The Code has been prepared to provide guidance to industry, Local Government and communities by:

- introducing a consistent development assessment framework for renewable energy infrastructure across Western Australia.
- establishing clear development standards and application requirements.
- addresses potential land use and environmental impacts, such as noise and landscape considerations.

The initial focus of the Code is on wind farms, with flexibility to expand to other renewable energy developments, including solar farms and battery energy storage systems.

The draft Code covers key planning issues such as safety, noise, shadow flicker, landscape and visual impact, natural environment, natural hazards, aviation safety, electromagnetic interference, transport, construction, and decommissioning.

Under the proposed Code, development applications must include detailed technical reports, whilst community benefit-sharing agreements are encouraged, these agreements sit outside of the planning system.

To enable implementation of the Code, regulatory amendments are proposed to the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015* to support incorporation of the Code into local planning schemes through Model Provisions, introduce standard land-use definitions that will apply to all local planning schemes and guide assessment of new noise-sensitive development near existing or approved wind farms.

There are also proposed reforms to the *Planning and Development (Significant Development) Regulations 2024*, which will classify renewable energy development applications valued at \$20 million or more as mandatory significant development. These projects will be assessed and determined by the WAPC under the State Significant Development Pathway (under Part 11B of the *Planning and Development Act 2005*), and Local Governments role will be to provide commentary to the development application, but final decision-making authority will rest with the WAPC.

Consultation on the draft Code and Guidelines closes 10 April 2026.

## Comment

WALGA's has advocated for changes to the renewable energy State planning framework to ensure orderly and proper planning of renewable energy facilities and therefore welcomes the release of the draft Renewable Energy Planning Code and Guidelines by the State Government for public comment. This draft Code represents a significant step toward establishing a consistent planning framework to guide the ongoing development of renewable energy facilities across WA - providing important clarity and guidance to WA Local Governments.

The proposed amendments to classify renewable energy projects over \$20 million as 'mandatory significant development' that must be determined by WAPC does not align with WALGA's Advocacy Position 6.4 State Development Applications and Decision Making, as it has the potential to erode Local Government decision making powers and community input. WALGA's position is that Part 11B should be abolished, or, if it is retained, the cost threshold should be raised to \$50 million.

WALGA considers it is essential that the requirement for community benefits be mandated. There are several options that should be examined as potential mechanisms to mandate community benefit-sharing agreements, including (but not limited to) amendments to existing planning or energy legislation or new, standalone legislation.

There is also a lack of guidance regarding appropriate land uses in particular zones, specifically protecting rural land for agricultural purposes, instead stating that wind farms are generally compatible with agricultural land uses. WALGA's position is that regulatory amendments are required to create a model zone through the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015* for land identified as high quality agricultural land (noting most of this land is located in the South West region) known as the 'Priority Agriculture'.

WALGA held two online information sessions on the Code alongside the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage on 5 and 9 February 2026 for Local Government officers and Elected Members respectively.

WALGA will prepare a submission to the State on behalf of the sector to ensure the draft Code delivers positive outcomes for Member Local Governments, communities and industry.



WALGA strongly encourages consideration of the draft Code by Zones. Local Governments should make their own submissions on the draft Code by 10 April 2026 and provide feedback to WALGA to inform our submission on behalf of the sector by 27 February 2026. Council endorsed submissions are preferred.

WALGA’s submission will be provided to State Council by flying agenda to meet the submission deadline.

Resolution/s	Action/s
<b>Noted</b>	