

# Great Southern Country Zone Minutes

Friday, 23 August 2024

Hosted by  
Shire of Jerramungup,  
Cameron Business Centre,  
Tobruk Road, Jerramungup

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## PRIORITISATION FRAMEWORK

How to use the Framework:

- If the majority of the factors are towards the left column, the issue is a high priority.
- If the majority of the factors are towards the middle, the issue requires action, but is not a high priority.
- If the majority of the factors are towards the right column, the issue is a low priority.

<b>Impact on Local Government Sector</b> Impact on Local Government sector without intervention	High	Medium	Low
<b>Reach</b> Number of member Local Governments affected	Sector-wide	Significant (multiple regions, Zones, or bands)	Few
<b>Influence</b> Capacity to influence decision makers	High	Medium	Low
<b>Principles</b> Alignment to core principles such as autonomy, funding, general competence	Strong	Partial	Peripheral
<b>Clarity</b> Policy change needed is clear and well-defined	Clear	Partial	Unclear
<b>Decision-maker support</b> Level of support among decision-makers (political and administrative)	High	Medium	Low
<b>Public support</b> Level of support among the public or other stakeholders	High	Medium	Low
<b>Positive consequences for WALGA</b> Prospect of positive consequences for WALGA. E.g. enhanced standing among members or leverage for other issues.	High	Medium	Low
<b>Negative consequences for WALGA</b> Prospect of negative consequences for WALGA for not undertaking the advocacy effort. E.g. diminished standing among members or other stakeholders.	High	Medium	Low
<b>Partnerships</b> Potential for partnerships with other stakeholders	Yes (3+)	Possibly (1-2)	No (0)

## 1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

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### 1.1 OPENING

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The Chair opened the meeting at 10.00am.

### 1.2 ATTENDANCE

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MEMBERS	2 Voting Delegates from each Member Council
City of Albany	Mayor Greg Stocks <b>Zone Deputy Chair</b> Deputy Mayor Cr Paul Terry A/CEO Matthew Gilfellon Cr Lynn MacLaren (Observer)
Deputy Delegate/s	
Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup	Cr Julian Wills Cr Steve Penny CEO Karen Callaghan (non-voting)
Shire of Cranbrook	President Cr George Pollard CEO Linda Gray (non-voting)
Shire of Denmark	Cr Jackie Ormsby CEO David King (non-voting)
Shire of Gnowangerup	President Cr Kate O'Keeffe Cr Peter Callaghan (Deputy Delegate) CEO David Nicholson (non-voting)
Deputy Delegate/s	
Shire of Jerramungup	President Cr Joanne Iffla Deputy President Cr Julie Leenhouders A/CEO Noel Myers
Shire of Katanning	President Cr Kristy D'Aprile CEO Peter Klein (non-voting)
Shire of Kent	President Cr Kate Johnston Cr Scott Crosby, <b>Zone Chair</b> CEO Christie Smith (non-voting)
Shire of Kojonup	President Cr Roger Bilney Deputy President Cr Cynthia Wieringa CEO Grant Thompson (non-voting)
Shire of Plantagenet	President, Cr Len Handasyde Cr Ken Clements (Deputy Delegate) DCEO Anthony Middleton (non-voting)
Shire of Woodanilling	President Cr Dale Douglas Deputy President Cr Russel Thomson CEO Paul Hanlon (non-voting)

## **GUESTS**

### **Agencies**

Great Southern Development Commission	Eden Shepherd, DCEO
Regional Development Australia – Great Southern WA Inc	Renee Tan, Research Officer

### **Members of Parliament**

Nil.

### **WALGA**

Lyn Fogg, Zone Executive Officer  
Rebecca Hicks, Policy Officer, Community  
Vacant, Regional Road Safety Adviser

### **Guest Speaker/s**

Richard Davies, Senior Policy and Project  
Manager, Department of Transport

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## **1.3 APOLOGIES**

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City of Albany	CEO Andrew Sharpe (non-voting)
Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup	President Cr Michael White Deputy President Cr Doug Barritt
Shire of Cranbrook	Deputy President Cr Daisy Egerton-Warburton
Shire of Denmark	Cr Dominic Youel
Shire of Gnowangerup	Deputy President Cr Rebecca O'Meehan
Shire of Jerramungup	CEO Martin Cuthbert (non-voting)
Shire of Katanning	Cr John Goodheart
Shire of Plantagenet	Deputy President, Cr Andrew Fraser
Members of Parliament	Mr Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor Mr Peter Rundle, MLA, Member for Roe Ms Rebecca Stephens, MLA Member for Albany Hon. Shelley Payne, MLC, Member for Agricultural Region Ms Jane Kelsbie, MLA, Member for Warren Blackwood
Great Southern Development Commission	Jarrad Garner, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Regional Development Australia – Great Southern WA Inc	Simon Lyas, Director, Regional Development
CBH Group	Kellie Todman, Manager Government & Industry Relations.
Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries	Mel Eastough, Regional Manager

## **2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

We, the Great Southern Country Zone of WALGA acknowledge the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture, and community. We embrace the vast cultural diversity throughout Western Australia, including the Noongar People as the Traditional Custodians of this land, and pay our respects to Elders past and present. WALGA is committed to supporting the efforts of WA Local Governments to foster respectful partnerships and strengthen relationships with local Aboriginal communities.

### 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

### 4 DEPUTATIONS / GUEST SPEAKERS

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#### 4.1 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

*Members of Federal and State Government, representing the Zone Member Local Government Districts, are invited to provide a brief update on matters relevant to Zone Members.*

**No Members of Parliament in attendance.**

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#### 4.2 REGIONAL FREIGHT STRATEGY DISCUSSION PAPER

**Attachments No. 1 and 2      Regional Freight Strategy Discussion Paper  
(circulated as separate PDF documents with Agenda)**

Mr Richard Davies, Senior Policy and Project Manager at the Department of Transport attended virtually, providing a presentation on the Regional Freight Strategy Discussion Paper.

**Local Governments are requested to provide feedback on the Discussion Paper by Friday 13 September 2024, via [regionalfreightstrategy@transport.wa.gov.au](mailto:regionalfreightstrategy@transport.wa.gov.au).**

#### BACKGROUND

In June 2024 the Department of Transport visited Albany and met with representatives from the City of Albany, Shire of Kojonup, Shire of Jerramungup and Shire of Katanning, providing their views on the attached Regional Freight Strategy Discussion Paper and FAQs

Department of Transport Summary of the Project:

In 2013, the Department of Transport released the *Western Australian Regional Freight Transport Network Plan*. Since then, a raft of shocks has impacted the global economy, including the COVID-19 pandemic, technological change, deteriorating climatic conditions and increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events. The Department of Transport (the Department) is developing the Regional Freight Strategy (the Strategy) in close collaboration with the Freight and Logistics Council of WA, industry, government, and community stakeholders to ensure the ongoing relevance of regional freight planning in a changing social, environmental, and economic context.

The Department is engaging with businesses, government bodies, industry associations, and special interest groups about the state's current and future freight tasks and the supply chains required for these tasks. The Strategy will define how global trends, including climate change, energy transition, emerging technologies, and resilience will affect demand for transport infrastructure. The Strategy will provide holistic and cross-regional guidance for freight policy, planning, and investment decisions across all regions of WA over the next 10 years, excluding Perth and Peel. Consultation with key stakeholders will help inform the development of the strategic direction of the Regional Freight Strategy.

We are seeking input from LGAs on the questions posed in the discussion paper and any other matters they believe are relevant to the movement of freight into, out of, and through their region. The Department is seeking to identify high-level strategic issues and opportunities for regional freight, rather than a list of prioritised projects for government or industry investment.

**Noted.**

**MEETING NOTE:**

**Zone Members were encouraged to provide a submission on the Regional Freight Strategy Discussion Paper, with consideration of the following:**

- **Implications for the Great Southern Secondary Freight Network Project (currently in progress by MRWA); and**
- **Department of Transport statements in the presentation that the Regional Freight Strategy excludes workforce availability / capability – skilled worker availability is already an issue for the region and the absence of this consideration, will impair the ability of State Government to reasonably implement the strategy.**

## **5 AGENCY REPORTS**

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### **5.1 GREAT SOUTHERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (GSDC)**

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*Verbal report by Eden Shepherd, Deputy Chief Executive Officer*

Mr Shepherd provided an update on the following GSDC activities:

- Housing Sector Needs for Workforce Development
  - Currently surveying businesses
  - Scheduled for completion in November 2024
  - Strategy to be subsequently developed
- Albany Accord role – currently conducting online survey
- Southern Trade Coast 2050 – seeks to decarbonise industry along the coast, includes consideration of workforce issues and Port Authorities.
- Drought strategies are now pivoting to climate change / resilience.
- Regional Economic Development Grant Scheme now closed with 33 applications received.
- Aboriginal business capability development project.
- Events supported include – Aboriginal Cultural Festival (Katanning), Wander in the Wild and Wild Gravel.

**Noted.**



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## 5.2 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA GREAT SOUTHERN WA INC (RDA-GS)

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*Report by Simon Lyas, Chief Executive Officer*

Simon Lyas as an apology for this meeting. Renee Tan, Research Officer was online and provided additional information.

### **RDA Committee Membership**

Over the next 6-months RDA will be advertising for new Committee members via an EOI process in local newsletters, regional newspapers and social media.

If anyone is interested in joining our Committee, the information can be found on our website: [rdagreatsouthern.com.au](http://rdagreatsouthern.com.au) or call Simon Lyas who is happy to answer questions you may have at [ceo@rdagreatsouthern.com.au](mailto:ceo@rdagreatsouthern.com.au) or ph.0417 417 897.

**For the convenience of the meeting Item 7.2.1 'DAMA Working Group Update' was brought forward for discussion.**

Ms Tan reported:

- The Department of Home Affairs had advised as of 23 August, that there was no update on the approval for the GS DAMA.
- Employers in the Region can contact RDA-GS to facilitate access to the WA-DAMA.
- RDA-GS is seeking advice from the WA Department of Training and Workforce Development regarding the operation of the WA-DAMA, to confirm if there will be a quota allocated to the GS region, method by which the DAMA is accessed and what will DTWD do to address the 126 occupations that are included in the GS DAMA application, but have not been included in the WA-DAMA.

Mayor Stocks and Cr Terry provided an update on their meeting with Minister Giles, whilst in Canberra for the ALGA National Assembly, including:

- Minister indicated the rationale for the WA DAMA was that regional DAMAs are not working sufficiently. Mayor Stocks advised the Minister that the Goldfields DAMA had processed 150+ and the East Pilbara 60+. Minister indicated these figures differed from those provided by his department.
- Minister advised he had not considered quotas within the WA-DAMA to ensure regional locations were serviced across the State.
- Mayor Stocks advocated that FIFO from Perth to Regions should not be counted as regional, as this delivers no benefit to the regional location.
- Minister had also not considered (was unaware) of the 126 occupations that were included in the GS-DAMA application, but not included in the WA-DAMA.

**The Great Southern Country Zone AGREED to request the Zone Executive Officer to:**

- **Invite the Department of Training and Workforce Development (DTWD) to attend a future meeting (ideally November 2024) to provide a presentation on the WA-DAMA and how it will directly service the Great Southern Region.**
- **Write to the Premier and Minister for Training and Workforce Development, advocating for State Government to support the GS-DAMA application and if this is not successful, requesting advice as to how the WA-DAMA will guarantee Great Southern regional quotas and what will DTWD do to service the 126 occupations missing from the WA DAMA.**

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### 5.3 GREAT SOUTHERN HUMAN SERVICES FORUM

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Nil.

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### 5.4 GREAT SOUTHERN REGIONAL ROADS GROUP

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*Report by President Cr Len Handasyde, Shire of Plantagenet,  
Chair, Great Southern Regional Roads Group*

It was good to see many good projects completed and acquitted this last financial year. The amount of funding is set to increase as more vehicles are registered each year and while the percentage of Vehicle Licensing Fees remains the same at 20% it does incrementally increase.

The Secondary Freight Network (SFN) work has begun with some Shires being awarded funds to get work completed in this financial year. The Technical Working Group worked through the projects that didn't require approvals, could be delivered and acquitted on time and would be a major step forward for key assets on the SFN list.

The Advocacy Document funded from SFN funds is almost complete with it having been out for comment and being amended in response to those comments. We will see this in the coming months, and it will be a useful tool. I have requested a meeting to be held shortly to work through a process to deal with the rest of the SFN funds. This will provide a framework for the next Regional Road Group Meeting in November to award projects for that funding stream which needs to be fully acquitted by June 30 2026.

The money handed back to the State Government was higher last year than the previous year. This is regrettable with some Shires having completed the work but missing out on getting the paperwork in on time. Main Roads WA need it in at the latest by the 15<sup>th</sup> of June each year for it to be acquitted and paid for before the end of June. If it is later than this it can be accrued and paid for in July. There are a number of projects though that have been accrued waiting for the completed paperwork and re-accrued into the following January with MRWA staff needing to re-accrue it each month. This is not acceptable and will inevitably cost us in the future. The accrued funds totalled some \$570,000 and the carried over funds around \$2,500,000. This up from around \$1,600,000 last year. I believe that RRG's have handed back nearly \$70M last year.

The State Advisory Committee (SAC) now has some power to bring about some sort of disciplinary action. It is unclear as to what this might be, but it is likely that SAC will remove funding from groups that routinely have carry over funds and re-allocate it to other groups that can spend it well. They may also take action against individual Councils that routinely fail to acquit funds possibly by not allowing Councils to be allocated funds for some time after a failure to acquit a project. This method has been trialled in the past and was found to have been successful.

I accept that our smaller Shires often lack resources to complete paperwork as was mentioned at the last WALGA Zone meeting. I have advocated on behalf of those Shires in the past and requested that we look at a three-year process for acquittals. This was agreed to by MRWA and it was a first for WA at that time. The proposal was rejected by the RRG at the next meeting by a large majority.

I will continue to advocate for timely acquittals as there is a heightened risk that we will lose otherwise in the future.

I wish you all the best with your projects this year and look forward to those acquittals coming in on time.

**Noted**

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## 5.5 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SPORT AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES (DLGSC)

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*Report by Mel Eastough, Regional Manager*

Attachment No.3 [DLGSC Update – August 2024](#)

Noted.

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## 5.6 WALGA ROADWISE

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*Report by RoadWise*

Nil to report.

The Road Safety Advisor position for the Great Southern region is still in the recruiting stage. This should be completed and appointed prior to the November Zone meeting.

## 6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

### RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Len Handasyde

Seconded: President Cr Kate Johnson

That the Minutes of the Great Southern Country Zone meeting held on 21 June 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings. The Minutes are attached with the Agenda.

CARRIED

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### 6.1 Business Arising from the Minutes

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Nil.

### 6.2 Zone Resolution and Action Items Status Reports

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*By Lyn Fogg, Zone Executive Officer*

Attachment No. 4 [Zone Status Report August 2024](#)

Attachment No. 5 [Zone Action Items Report August 2024](#)

The Status Report provides an update on Zone resolutions referred to WALGA State Council. Status Items identified as 'Completed' will be removed following this meeting. Zone Members are asked to review responses.

The Action Items Report provides an update on the status of Zone resolutions for action by Zone members or the Zone Executive Officer. Zone members are asked to review responses. Action Items identified as 'Completed' in this Report will be removed following this meeting.

## RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Kate Johnson  
Seconded: President Cr Dale Douglas

That the Great Southern Country Zone NOTES the:

1. Status Report for August 2024, as detailed in Attachment No.4, and
2. Action Items Report for August 2024, as detailed in Attachment No.5.

CARRIED

## 7 ZONE BUSINESS

### 7.1 ZONE REPORTS

#### 7.1.1 Zone Financial Report

*By Yuhan Richards, WALGA Finance Manager*

#### Zone Financial Report for June 2024

*(All amounts are excluding GST unless otherwise specified)*

Financial statements for the zone have been prepared on an accrual basis and show the financial performance and financial position for the year ended 30 June 2024.

The overall result for the whole financial year consists of a surplus of \$3,695 compared to the budgeted surplus of \$1,450. Income includes all member subscriptions invoiced and collected.

Meeting costs of \$2,785 related to payment for catering expenses for zone meetings held throughout the year.

A payment of \$17,510 was made to Ernst & Young for consulting advice on the DAMA project in February 2024. This leaves a balance of \$11,290 in the unused project funds in the balance sheet.

**Table 1: Statement of Income and Expenditure – financial year ended 30 June 2024**

	Note	Actual \$	Budget \$
<b>Income</b>			
Subscriptions	1	6,600	6,600
Other		-	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>6,600</b>	<b>6,600</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Bank Fees		120	150
Meeting Costs (Catering)	2	2,785	5,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>2,905</b>	<b>5,150</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>		<b>\$3,695</b>	<b>\$1,450</b>
<b>Notes</b>			
1. Subscriptions excl GST 11@ \$600 each - Invoiced by WALGA on behalf of GSCZ - All fully paid.			
2. Catering expense for zone meetings held throughout the year (Albany, Tambellup, Cranbrook and Denmark)			

**Table 2: Balance Sheet presenting the Zone's financial position as at 30 June 2024**

<b>Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>
Bank	15,722
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>15,722</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Creditors	-
GST Payable	-
Unused Project Funds	11,290
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>11,290</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 4,432</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
Members Funds B/F	737
Current year earnings	3,695
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$ 4,432</b>

#### RESOLUTION

Moved: Deputy President Cr Julie Leenhouders  
 Seconded: President Cr Joanne Iffla

That the Great Southern Country Zone receives the Zone Financial Report for June 2024.

CARRIED

#### 7.1.2 ATO Zone Authorised Representative

*By Yuhan Richards, WALGA Finance Manager*

#### BACKGROUND

The WALGA Chief Financial Officer, Mr Rick Murray seeks the Zone's authorisation to enable management of the zones finances for taxation, registration, and annual reporting requirements through the ATO online services.

The Great Southern Country Zone is requested to approve Richard Andrew Murray, Chief Financial Officer, WALGA as the Zone's authorised representative for ATO purposes.

#### RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Len Handasyde  
 Seconded: President Cr Dale Douglas

That the Great Southern Country Zone **AUTHORISES**, WALGA's Chief Financial Officer, Richard Andrew Murray for as the Zone's authorised representative for Australian Taxation Office (ATO) purposes.

CARRIED

### 7.1.3 Zone Chairperson's Report

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*Cr Scott Crosby, Zone Chairperson*

The Chair acknowledged the City of Albany and Shires of Katanning and Plantagenet representatives who attended the Australian Local Government Association National Assembly and advocated for the Zone's strategic priorities and interests.

**Noted.**

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## 7.2 ZONE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

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### 7.2.1 Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) – Working Group Update

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*By Simon Lyas, CEO, RDA – Great Southern, on behalf of the Working Group*

Simon Lyas is an apology for this meeting.

Renee Tan, Research Officer was online and spoke to the below report.

1. As members are no doubt aware the Australian Government announced a Statewide DAMA with the WA Government, administered by Dept of Training and Workforce Development in early July. This announcement coincided on the weekend the City of Albany delegation and I travelled to Canberra.
  - As reported at the June meeting, I accompanied the Mayor of Albany Greg Stocks, Deputy Mayor Paul Terry and CEO Andrew Sharpe on a trip to Canberra to see the then Minister for Immigration the Hon Andrew Giles on Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> July to advocate for the GS DAMA. We met with the Minister's Senior Advisor Mr. Henry Sherrell and the Minister for approx. 1-hour.
  - Following the WA-DAMA announcement the meeting wasn't productive as they advised us to support the Statewide DAMA and encouraged us to liaise with the DTWD office.
  - Importantly, we were not told our GS-DAMA was closed, so neither a YES or NO!
  - While in Canberra EY provided an analysis of the Occupation list for the WA-DAMA. The biggest concern is that there are 126 occupations identified that we required in the Great Southern not on the WA list.
  - I have written to DTWD and the Minister for Immigration requesting information on how the occupations can be addressed however I have had no reply to date.
  - It has been suggested that we review the list of 126 occupations and request the WA DAMA to apply for a variation to address our regional needs. We are discussing this approach with EY and may approach DTWD in due course.
  - Meanwhile the Dept of Immigration released a discussion paper on Regional Migration Settings in late June and RDA has made a response reinforcing the strengths of our own regional DAMA submitted on 25<sup>th</sup> July.
  - I have asked EY to do no further work for our GS-DAMA until further notice.
2. RDA will write to the new Minister for Immigration and Home Affairs the Hon Tony Burke to continue our advocacy for a DAMA in the Great Southern.

### Zone Secretariat Update

The Great Southern Country Zone resolved at its 21 June 2024 meeting:

*That the Great Southern Zone requests that the Zone Executive Officer write to the Hon Andrew Giles, Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs*

*advising the Zone is requesting a response to its request for a Great Southern DAMA.*

This letter was provided to City of Albany's Deputy Mayor Paul Terry who in company with City of Albany representatives, hand delivered the letter to the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Multicultural Affairs during the National General Assembly / Australian Local Government Association Conference in Canberra in July 2024.

**Item 7.2.1 was brought forward and discussed at Item 5.1 Regional Development Australia Great Southern.**

**Noted.**

## **7.2.2 Housing**

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*Lyn Fogg, Zone Executive Officer*

**Attachment No. 6**     [Response from Minister for Water dated 4 July 2024](#)

### **BACKGROUND**

The Great Southern Country Zone resolved at its April 2024 meeting:

*The Great Southern Country Zone requests the Zone Secretariat write to relevant Ministers seeking State Government prioritised investment and action to:*

- 1. Reactivate State owned lazy residential assets as an opportunity to expedite the State's delivery of much need regional housing; and*
- 2. Support regional Local Government development of residential land by:*
  - a. State Government implementing options to reduce prohibitive upfront headworks costs; and*
  - b. Address unreasonable extended time delays for State owned utility providers to complete residential land development headworks which are exacerbating regional housing shortages.*

### **UPDATE**

The Zone wrote to the following Ministers send by email on 29 May 2024:

- Minister for Water – responded on 4 July 2024 – refer attachment.
- Minister for Housing – no response to date.
- Minister for Energy– no response to date.
- Minister for Communities - referred the Zone's correspondence to the Minister for Planning, Lands, Housing and Homelessness on 30 May 2024

**Noted.**

### 7.2.3 Live Sheep Export Ban

By Lyn Fogg, Zone Executive Officer

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#### Attachment No. 7 [Federal Member responses to Zone advocacy](#)

##### BACKGROUND

The Great Southern Country Zone resolved at its 21 June 2024 meeting:

*That the Great Southern Country Zone representing the Local Governments of Albany, Broomehill-Tambellup, Cranbrook, Denmark, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Katanning, Kent, Kojonup, Plantagenet and Woodanilling resolves that:*

- *The Governance process by which the decision was made does not accord with good public policy principles. It does not fit the science, did not involve genuine engagement and appears to be based on political ideology which does not serve the regional, state or national interest.*
- *the Federal Government withdraws its current Export Control Amendment (Ending Live Sheep Exports by Sea) Bill 2024 and if this is not achieved then, advocate to the Federal Minister for Agriculture to launch a Senate inquiry into the Export Control Amendment (Ending Live Sheep Exports by Sea) Bill 2024.*
- *express disappointment in the Federal Government and lack of acknowledgement and understanding of the impact on regional communities that decisions like this have.*
- *a letter to the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and minor parties, be written detailing the above be signed by the President of the Great Southern Country Zone on behalf of members.*
- *The Supporting document from the Local Governments that commissioned an economic study into the impact of ceasing live sheep export be provided.*

##### UPDATE

Advocacy Correspondence was emailed on 28 June 2024, to the following:

- Prime Minister
- Leader of the Opposition
- Leader of Aust. Greens
- Leader of the Nationals
- Leader of the Liberal Party

Responses received (provided in the Attachment):

- Minister for Agriculture (on behalf of the Prime Minister).

Noted.

### 7.2.4 Live Sheep Export Ban – Other Zone Support

By Lyn Fogg, Zone Executive Officer

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##### BACKGROUND

Zone resolved at its 21 June 2024 meeting, for the Zone to write to the Prime Minister and all leaders of opposition and minor parties expressing the Zone's disappointment at the Federal Government's decision-making governance and lack of acknowledgement of the



impact the ban will have on regional communities; requesting the Government to withdraw the Export Control Amendment Bill.

The Pilbara Country Zone noted the GSCZ's resolution and wrote to the Zone as follows:



## COMMENT

The Central Country Zone and the South West Country Zone have also written to the Prime Minister.

**Noted.**

## 7.2.5 Draft Regional Education Strategy – Feedback by 20 September 2024

*Lyn Fogg, Zone Executive Officer*

On 22 July 2024, Department of Education released a [draft Regional Education Strategy](#). The Strategy aims to provide a framework to guide more effective delivery of regional education, focusing on improved educational and wellbeing opportunities across four pillars:

- Pillar 1: Build the capability of our regional workforce
- Pillar 2: Expand curriculum delivery
- Pillar 3: Strengthen support for student wellbeing
- Pillar 4: Develop partnerships to create opportunity

The Great Southern Country Zone has taken a strong leadership role in encouraging other country zones to join in our advocacy to the Minister for Education to deliver targeted programs and resourcing that support regional education opportunities.

It is important that Great Southern Country Zone Local Government voices are represented in the feedback to State Government, strongly advocating to shape the Regional Education Strategy so that your communities benefit from the outcomes.

The consultation period closes on Friday 20 September 2024. [Information is available here.](#)

WALGA will be hosting a consultation session for Regional Local Governments with the Department of Education on 20 August. [Register here](#)

A recording will be made available on the WALGA website.

**Noted.**

**The Great Southern Country Zone REQUESTED:**

- Each Zone Member Local Government to provide a submission in response to the Draft Regional Education Strategy.
- A copy of the Zone's advocacy letter to the Minister for Education and the Minister's response – this detail may assist Local Governments to prepare their submissions.
- A Zone submission be made and developed in consultation with:
  - Zone Chair, Cr Scott Crosby, Shire of Kent
  - Cr Peter Callaghan, Shire of Gnowangerup
  - Mr Grant Thompson, CEO Shire of Kojonup

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## 7.3 MATTERS FOR ZONE NOTING AND DECISION

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### 7.3.1 GSCZ Membership Request – Shire of Ravensthorpe

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*By Lyn Fogg, Zone Executive Officer*

#### BACKGROUND

The Shire of Ravensthorpe, at its 18 June 2024 Council meeting resolved:

#### COUNCIL DECISION

Moved by Cr Mudie and seconded by Cr Richardson

Resolution: 49/24

That Council ENDORSE;

1. The Shire of Ravensthorpe applying for membership to the WALGA Great Southern Country Zone,
2. If approved above, then seek WALGA State Council approval to transfer from the Goldfields Esperance Country Zone to the Great Southern Country Zone, and
3. REPORT back to Council if and when State Council approval received.

Carried 6/0

The Shire of Ravensthorpe CEO has written to the Great Southern Country Zone, requesting consideration of this request.

WALGA secretariat advised the Shire of Ravensthorpe that the Great Southern Country Zone 2024/2025 membership fees are \$660.

#### **COMMENT**

Subject to the Great Southern Country Zone's agreement, the WALGA Secretariat will provide a report to State Council's meeting on 4 September 2024, requested adjustment to Zone Memberships for the Great Southern Country Zone and the Goldfields Country Zone.

If approved by Great Southern Country Zone and State Council, then Shire of Ravensthorpe may transfer its Zone membership to the Great Southern Country Zone and attend the Zone's November meeting.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** President Cr Joanne Iffla  
**seconded:** President Cr Krist D'Aprile

**That the Great Southern Country Zone:**

- 1. AGREES to the Shire of Ravensthorpe's request to join the Great Southern Country Zone, and**
- 2. REQUESTS WALGA State Council's favourable consideration.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **7.3.2 Proposal: Joint Mobile Black Spot Funding Application**

*By City of Albany*

#### **BACKGROUND**

During the National General Assembly and Australian Local Government Conference in Canberra in July 2024, the City of Albany's Mayor, Deputy Mayor and CEO met with the Minister for Communications' Senior Advisor, Mr Matt Healy.

As a result of this meeting, the City of Albany requests the Zone's consideration of a joint application for greater mobile black spot funding, specifically relating to coverage on the Albany Highway, between Albany and Perth.

Blackspot Funding Program and other funding avenues are available to assist our region to deliver improved communications outcomes.

The City of Albany believes this initiative could significantly benefit the region and would like to discuss this opportunity.

#### **Meeting Discussion:**

Mayor Stocks advised the meeting that during a meeting with the Federal Minister's advisor (held during the ALGA National Assembly) he was advised that if Local Governments identify specific land on which mobile towers can be installed, then Mobile Blackspot funding was more likely to be obtained.

Mayor Stocks encouraged Zone Members to identify land within their Districts which align with Mobile Blackspots, and which is available and suitable for installation of mobile tower infrastructure. These locations could be collated and provided and a collaborative application.

The Zone Executive Officer noted that it is important to identify if land is Crown land / subject to a Management Order to the Local Government. If this is the case, then the proposal for installation of mobile tower infrastructure will need to be directed to the Lands Team at the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, which will likely be the entity that establishes the lease agreement with the mobile provider.

**The Great Southern Country Zone AGREED to:**

- Circulate a copy of the Great Southern Development Commission's Mobile Black Spot List (2022/23) to Zone Member CEO's.
- Request Zone Member CEO's to identify land / locations (aligned to addressing mobile black spots) that may be made available as potential sites for future installation of mobile tower infrastructure.
- A report being provided to November 2024 Zone meeting, listing locations as a basis for a potential joint submission for mobile black spot funding to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and Federal Communications Minister.

### 7.3.3 Great Southern Climate, Nature & Regional Economic Growth Forum – 28 August 2024

*By Lyn Fogg, Zone Executive Officer*

The WALGA Secretariat circulated information by email on 1 August 2024 to all Zone Members promoting the opportunity to attend the:

**Great Southern Climate, Nature & Regional Economic Growth Forum**

Wednesday, 28 August 2024, 5.30pm for 6pm start

FREE event

Registrations are essential: [Albany.wa.gov.au/bookable](https://albany.wa.gov.au/bookable)



**Noted.**

### 7.3.4 WALGA Honours Recipients

*By Chantelle O'Brien, Governance Support Officer*

#### **BACKGROUND**

WALGA celebrated their 2024 Honours awards recipients at an event on Friday, 2 August at Winthrop Hall. For the first time, a WALGA awards event was held solely to acknowledge and appreciate the extraordinary efforts of Elected Members and Local Government Officers in service of their Local Government, the sector and the community.

There were 46 recipients of Honours awards in the 2024 program, including two Local Government Medal recipients. Four new WALGA Life Members were also inducted.

4 Honours recipients were from the Great Southern Country Zone:

Mr Christopher George Pavlovich	Shire of Plantagenet	Eminent Service Award
Ms Renae Jury	Shire of Kent	Merit Award
Mr Timothy Borgward	Shire of Kent	Merit Award
Cr Scott Crosby	Shire of Kent	Merit Award

Congratulations to all Honours recipients!

Nominations for the 2025 Honours Program will open early next year.

**Noted.**

## 8 WALGA STATE COUNCIL BUSINESS

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### 8.1 ZONE STATE COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT

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*Cr Scott Crosby, Zone State Councillor*

#### **Office of the Auditor General Increased Costs**

The Chair tabled a copy of the WALGA State Council minutes dated 10 July 2024, Emerging Issue item 7.1 Office of the Auditor General Increased Costs. Discussion noted the following concerns:

- Local Governments are seeing little or no benefit from OAG audits, beyond the benefits they obtained when contracting their own auditors.
- OAGs publication of contractor costs, may have the unintended consequence of influencing the market (increasing their quotes) when responding to OAG procurement processes.
- No transparency for how OAG assigns auditors to LGs – appears to be limited consideration of the size and scale of the LG, and the complexity of activity undertaken by the LG that may influence a decision to assign a more experienced auditor.
- Local Governments continue to deal with inexperienced auditors, which incur additional resource requirements and time imposts on the Local Government's operations.
- Wide disparity in OAG fees for similar sized regional Local Governments, with no evident rationale for why the fees vary so greatly.

The Zone Executive Officer advised the meeting that WALGA's advocacy has contributed to the Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations scheduling a public hearing with the Office of the Auditor General, in relation to Local Government Audit Fees. WALGA will attend the hearing.

#### **Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB)**

The Chair noted media reports that the PSHB has been detected outside the metropolitan area quarantine zone and is potentially now posing a risk to agriculture in the South West region.

Meeting discussion identified that State Government increased investment may be required to enforce quarantine zones and to more urgently respond to mitigate infestations as soon as they are identified.

The Great Southern Country Zone REQUESTS a letter be sent on behalf of the Zone to the Premier and the Minister for Agriculture, advocating for increased State Government funding, resourcing and action to enforce the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer quarantine zone and remove infestations as soon as they are identified, to prevent the spread of PSHB and the potential catastrophic impact on regional agriculture and economies.

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## 8.2 STATE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA – MATTERS FOR DECISION

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*Zone delegates to read and consider the September 2024 WALGA State Council Agenda, which has been provided as an attachment with this Agenda.*

The Zone can provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation that will then be presented to the State Council for consideration.

### 8.2.1 State Council Matters for Decision

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#### 8.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS ANALYSIS 2015-2023

*By Emma Heys, Governance Specialist*

##### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA advocate to the State Government:

1. *For an independent Local Government election audit, focusing on the Western Australia Electoral Commission's (WAEC) cost allocation methods and costing applications used, to confirm that marginal cost recovery principles are applied and that the costing program is being effectively managed.*
2. *For the requirement for the WAEC to develop and implement Service Level Agreements with Local Governments, similar to those agreements currently used in New South Wales and Victorian Local Government elections and that includes:*
  - a. *transparency of costing methodology,*
  - b. *direct engagement with Local Governments pre and post elections, and*
  - c. *the roles and responsibilities of the WAEC and Local Governments in the conduct of elections.*
3. *For the introduction of a provision for private service providers to enter the market for the conduct of Local Government elections.*
4. *For a mandated WAEC Report to Parliament specific to Local Government elections post each election cycle, outlining costs, results, voter turnout and matters for improvement both in the conduct of elections and the legislation, if relevant.*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This report presents the findings of a comprehensive review and analysis of five election cycles up to and including the 2023 Local Government election against the backdrop of legislative reforms to the Local Government electoral process in Western Australia.
- With a focus on postal elections conducted exclusively by the Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC), the analysis has found evidence of the rising cost of conducting Local Government elections in Western Australia.
- Elected Member feedback, costs vs service comparisons and engagement by the sector with WALGA's governance services over the 2023 Local Government election period, are the basis for the recommendations as outlined above.
- The Governance Policy Team considered this item at its meeting of 7 August and endorsed the position for consideration by State Council

## 8.2 ENERGY TRANSITION ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY BENEFIT FRAMEWORK ADVOCACY POSITION

*By Daniel Thomson, Manager Economics*

### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse a new Energy Transition Engagement and Community Benefit Framework Advocacy Position as follows:

*It is essential that the energy transition currently underway delivers economic opportunities, ensures reliable and affordable electricity, and the greatest possible benefits for the community.*

*WALGA calls on the State Government to develop a comprehensive framework to manage the impact of the energy transition that includes local engagement and the realisation of community benefits from energy transition projects as a priority.*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Western Australia's energy industry is transforming to achieve the goal of net zero emissions by 2050.
- In Western Australia there is no framework that provides a consistent approach to how proponents of major energy projects consult with local communities and how they can share in the benefits.
- WALGA will advocate for the State Government to develop a framework to guide consultation and benefit sharing with local communities during the energy transition.
- A joint meeting of the Environment Policy Team and Infrastructure Policy Team held on 10 July endorsed the position for consideration by State Council.
- This draft advocacy position should be considered in conjunction with the accompanying draft WALGA advocacy positions Renewable Energy Facilities (Item 8.3) and Priority Agriculture (Item 8.4).

### 8.3 RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES ADVOCACY POSITION

By Kieran McGovern, Policy Officer Planning

#### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse a new Renewable Energy Facilities Advocacy Position as follows:

*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. The renewable energy state planning framework requires changes to ensure it is fit for purpose to guide the ongoing development of this sector.*

WALGA calls on the State Government to:

1. *Adopt a new State Planning Policy for renewable energy facilities, to replace the existing Position Statement: Renewable energy facilities, that:*
  - a. *Facilitates the orderly development of renewable energy facilities across Western Australia;*
  - b. *Outlines the key planning and environmental considerations, for the location, siting, design and operation of renewable energy facilities and their associated infrastructure;*
  - c. *Provides a framework that clearly stipulates the minimum required documentation and technical reports that need to be submitted with proposals for renewable energy facilities;*
  - d. *Supports the development of Local Planning Policies by Local Governments to further guide locally appropriate planning consideration of renewable energy facilities;*
  - e. *Provides a clear relationship with:*
    - i. *State Planning Policy 2.5 - Rural planning and Development Control Policy 3.4 - Subdivision of rural land, to ensure planning decisions adequately balance the need to protect and preserve rural land for rural purposes;*
    - ii. *State Planning Policy 2.4 - Planning for Basic Raw Materials to ensure proposals for renewable energy facilities consider their impact on basic raw material supply at the earliest stage of the planning process; and*
    - iii. *State Planning Policy 2.9 - Planning for Water to ensure water resources impacted by renewable energy facilities are identified and adequately managed.*
  - f. *Includes policy measures to address:*
    - i. *concerns relating to the location of these facilities and their associated infrastructure on agricultural land, their proximity to lot boundaries, town sites and sensitive land uses, and potential impact on airport operations and rural activities;*
    - ii. *planning for renewable energy facilities in industrial areas in relation to the coordination of these facilities, their appropriateness in the 'General Industry' zone and impacts and suitable location on heavy industry sites;*
    - iii. *the need for local engagement and the realisation of community benefits from the development of renewable energy facilities.*



2. *Review the definition of 'renewable energy facility' considering the increasing size and scope of facilities and consider creating definitions based on the scale of the facility (Utility-scale and other), and the form of facility (solar energy and wind energy).*
3. *Provide guidance to Local Governments on the consideration of green hydrogen production facilities on rural land where it is an incidental use to a renewable energy facility.*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting resolution and subsequent resolution by the Great Eastern Country Zone requested *WALGA establish and promote policies to protect and prioritise the preservation of agricultural land against its displacement by non-agricultural activities that lead to a net reduction of the State's productive agricultural land.*
- The Central Country Zone resolved to request WALGA to advocate to the State Government *to develop a more comprehensive and effective approach to guide the management and placement of renewable energy facilities; including but not limited to wind, solar, battery renewable diesel and associated infrastructure.*
- The existing State Government *Position Statement: Renewable energy facilities* does not adequately address these concerns, leading to inconsistent application and approvals of renewable energy facilities across the State.
- WALGA will advocate for the existing *Position Statement: Renewable energy facilities* to be amended and elevated to a State Planning Policy, including more nuanced provisions which provide greater guidance to Local Governments and applicants, and allow for renewable energy land uses to be classified as either small or large facilities.
- A joint meeting of the Environment Policy Team and Infrastructure Policy Team on 10 July endorsed the position for consideration by State Council.
- This draft advocacy position should be considered in conjunction with accompanying draft WALGA advocacy positions Energy Transition Engagement and Community Benefit Framework (Item 8.2) and Priority Agriculture (Item 8.4).

## 8.4 PRIORITY AGRICULTURE ADVOCACY POSITION

*By Kieran McGovern, Policy Officer Planning*

### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse a new Priority Agriculture Advocacy Position as follows:

*The state planning framework should provide sufficient statutory protections for areas identified as high quality agricultural land.*

*WALGA calls on the State Government to:*

1. *Amend the Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015 to:*
  - a. *Create a new model zone under Schedule 1, Part 3, Clause 16 for land identified as high quality agricultural land known as the 'Priority Agriculture' zone, with the following objectives:*
    - i. *to retain priority agricultural land for agricultural purposes; and*
    - ii. *limit the introduction of sensitive land uses which may compromise existing, future and potential agricultural production.*

- b. *Define 'Priority Agriculture' zone under Schedule 2, Part 1, Clause 1 to align with the definition provided in State Planning Policy 2.5 - Rural planning.*
- 2. *Review the areas which have been identified by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development as high quality agricultural land and expand the extent of mapping to address the whole of Western Australia.*
- 3. *Undertake a 'health check' of State Planning Policy 2.5 - Rural planning and Development Control Policy 3.4 - Subdivision of rural land, in consultation with relevant stakeholders.*

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- A 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting resolution and subsequent resolution by the Great Eastern Country Zone have requested *that WALGA establish and promote policies to protect and prioritise the preservation of agricultural land against its displacement by non-agricultural activities that lead to a net reduction of the State's productive agricultural land.*
- WALGA prepared a *Research Paper: Protection of Productive Agricultural Land* that provides policy context, previous WALGA advocacy and analysis of State and Local Government approaches to agricultural land use protections.
- This work identified that a lack of consistency between the sub-regional planning strategies across the different regions of WA has impeded the implementation of best practice planning controls into local planning frameworks, and thus inconsistent application across the State.
- This advocacy position recommends statutory protections of areas that have been identified as high quality agricultural land, through amending the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015* to include a model zone for 'Priority Agriculture'. This will provide the ability for Local Governments to adopt the model zone into their local planning schemes.
- A joint meeting of the Environment Policy Team and Infrastructure Policy Team endorsed the position for consideration by State Council on 10 July 2024.
- This draft advocacy position should be considered in conjunction with accompanying draft WALGA advocacy positions Energy Transition Engagement and Community Benefit Framework (Item 8.2) and Renewable Energy Facilities (Item 8.3).

**8.5 PLANNING PRINCIPLES AND REFORM ADVOCACY POSITION**

*By Coralie Claudio, Senior Policy Advisor Planning*

- WALGA RECOMMENDATION**
- That State Council:
- 1. Retire Advocacy Position 6.2 Planning Reform; and
  - 2. Replace Advocacy Position 6.1 Planning Principles with the following:
    - 6.1 *Planning Principles and Reform*
      - 1. *The Local Government sector supports an efficient and effective planning system guided by legislation, policy, and processes that:*
        - a. *facilitates the creation of sustainable and liveable communities and places;*

- b. *has a focus on strategic planning that delivers on long-term objectives and outcomes that balance social, environmental, cultural, and economic interests;*
  - c. *is easy to understand, accessible and transparent;*
  - d. *recognises the diversity of Western Australia and ensures that local environment, context, communities and character are appropriately reflected in planning frameworks and decision making;*
  - e. *ensures decisions are made by the level of government closest to and most impacted by a planning proposal; and*
  - f. *establishes consistent planning frameworks and streamlines planning processes where there is a demonstrated benefit in doing so.*
2. *Reforms to the planning system should:*
- a. *be guided by the above principles;*
  - b. *deliver community benefit;*
  - c. *promote system efficiency, including through the use of technology;*
  - d. *be evidence-based and informed by robust, transparent data;*
  - e. *proceed at an appropriate pace to enable effective implementation;*
  - f. *be informed by engagement with the community; and*
  - g. *be amended only with WALGA involvement and/or consultation/involvement with Local Government.*

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- It is proposed that the Advocacy Positions 6.1 Planning Principles and 6.2 Planning Reform be replaced with a new contemporary combined position that reflects the current planning system and planning reform agenda.
- The updated position identifies key elements that would create an effective and efficient planning system and how planning reform can be developed, prioritised, and implemented to achieve this.
- The updated position has been informed by feedback from Local Government officers, including WALGA's Planning Advisory Group and previous WALGA submissions on State Government planning reform initiatives.
- The Environment Policy Team endorsed the advocacy position at their meeting on 29 July.

**8.6 PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP POLICY STATEMENT AND ADVOCACY POSITION**

*By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste*

- WALGA RECOMMENDATION**
- That State Council:
1. Rescind the existing Extended Producer Responsibility Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 7.5 Extended Producer Responsibility.
  2. Endorse a new Product Stewardship Advocacy Position as follows:
    1. *Industry should take responsibility (physical and/or financial) for the waste that it generates through the entire life cycle of the products it produces through the implementation of effective product stewardship. Without effective Product Stewardship, there will be increasing costs for the*

*community, resource recovery targets will be difficult to reach and a transition to a circular economy is unlikely.*

2. *Effective Product Stewardship is characterised by:*
  - a. *Producers and importers taking responsibility for post consumption product impacts.*
  - b. *Schemes covering the entire cost of product recycling or recovery, including transport.*
  - c. *Leveraging existing Schemes and collection locations.*
  - d. *Being easy and convenient for the community to access.*
  - e. *Having equitable national coverage and access for all, including regional and remote locations.*
  - f. *Being evidence based.*
  - g. *Consistent regulation and implementation across Australia using national Product Stewardship legislation.*
  - h. *Timely action and industry cooperation during Scheme development and implementation.*
  - i. *Being demand based and aiming to recover the maximum amount of material, rather than being limited by targets.*
  - j. *No additional cost to consumers when the product is disposed of post consumption.*
3. *Local Government calls on the Commonwealth Government to implement effective Product Stewardship schemes for all products that drive environmentally and socially sustainable outcomes through the design, manufacture and distribution of products that can be more easily reused, repaired, recovered or recycled.*
4. *If national action is not progressed within a reasonable timeframe, or in a way that meets the needs of the Western Australian community, then Local Government supports a State based approach to Product Stewardship.*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Extended Producer Responsibility \(EPR\) Policy Statement](#) was first endorsed in 2004 and reviewed and amended in 2008.
- The Statement outlines the rationale for Local Government support for EPR, as a way of ensuring producers take responsibility for their products at the end of life, and some of the key elements of successful Schemes.
- WALGA's [Local Government Principles for Product Stewardship](#) was endorsed in 2022. The Principles provided more detail on key design elements for Schemes and have been used to inform advocacy.
- Following discussion at the April Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) and Officers Advisory Group meetings it was agreed to review the EPR Policy Statement and incorporate the Local Government Principles into a new Product Stewardship Policy Statement and Advocacy Position.
- The Product Stewardship Policy Statement and Advocacy Position has been updated to:
  - Include a greater focus on the potential for Product Stewardship to influence the design of products, as well as their post consumption disposal.
  - Identifying the increasing cost burden on Local Government and the community of increasing complex products.
  - Focus on ensuring all products have a clear and funded end of life pathway.
- The MWAC endorsed the new Policy Statement and Advocacy Position in June.

## 8.7 SUBMISSION ON THE DRAFT STATE WASTE STRATEGY

*By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste*

### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the Draft State Waste Strategy Submission.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Draft State Waste Strategy](#) (Draft Strategy) and [State Waste Infrastructure Plan](#) were released on 29 May. This follows the release of the [Strategy Directions Paper](#) in May 2023. WALGA provided a comprehensive [Submission](#) on the Directions Paper.
- Given the significant impact of the Strategy on Local Government, WALGA was granted an extension to the deadline to allow the draft submission to be considered by WALGA Zones and State Council.
- The focus of the Draft Strategy is:
  - Better outcomes for regional and Aboriginal communities
  - Increasing our focus on waste avoidance
  - Better management of priority materials
  - Realising the economic potential of recycling
  - Contingency planning and climate resilience.
- New Targets are also proposed for each of the Avoid, Recover and Protect areas.
- WALGA's draft submission on the Draft Strategy was informed by Local Government written feedback and feedback received at a webinar held on 19 July.
- This Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) endorsed the draft submission on 31 July 2024.

### RESOLUTION

**Moved:** President Cr Len Handasyde

**Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Cr Paul Terry

That the Great Southern Country Zone supports all WALGA recommendations in the Matters for Decision as contained in the September 2024 State Council Agenda and as listed above.

**CARRIED**

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## POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

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### 9.1 ENVIRONMENT POLICY TEAM REPORT

*By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy*

### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the report from the Environment Policy Team to the 4 September 2024 meeting.

## 9.2 GOVERNANCE POLICY TEAM REPORT

*By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services*

### RESOLUTION

That State Council note the report from the Governance Policy Team meeting for the 4 September 2024 meeting.

## 9.3 INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY TEAM REPORT

*By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager, Infrastructure*

### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

1. Note the report from the Infrastructure Policy Team to the 4 September 2024 meeting.
2. Determine to retire the following Advocacy Positions:
  - a. 5.2.4 Seat Belt Legislation
  - b. 5.8 Ports
  - c. 5.12 Infrastructure WA

## 9.4 PEOPLE AND PLACE POLICY TEAM REPORT

*By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy*

### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

1. Note the report from the People and Place Policy Team to the 4 September 2024 meeting.
2. Determine to:
  - a. retain the following Advocacy Positions with amendment:
    - i. 3.2.1 Local Public Health Plans
  - b. rescind the following Advocacy Position:
    - i. 3.5 Crime Prevention

## 9.5 MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL (MWAC) REPORT

*By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste*

### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the report from the Municipal Waste Advisory Council to the 4 September 2024 meeting.

## RESOLUTION

Moved: Deputy President Cr Julie Leenhouders

Seconded: President Cr Kirsty D'Aprile

That the Great Southern Country Zone:

1. notes all Policy Team and Committee Reports as contained in the September 2024 State Council Agenda; and
2. supports the WALGA recommendations in the Infrastructure and People and Place Policy Team Reports as contained in the September 2024 State Council Agenda and as listed above.

### 8.2.2 State Council Matters for Noting and Key Activity Reports

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#### MATTERS FOR NOTING/INFORMATION

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State Council Agenda 'Matters for Noting' are provided for Zone consideration and noting.

10.1 Local Government Legislative Reform

10.2 Report on Local Government Road Assets and Expenditure 2022/23

**Noted.**

#### KEY ACTIVITY REPORTS

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11.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio

11.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio

11.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio

11.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio

**Noted.**

### 8.2.3 WALGA President's Report

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Attachment No. 8 [WALGA President's Report](#)

**Noted.**

## 9 EMERGING ISSUES/COLLABORATION

### City of Albany

- City has advocated to the Minister for funding South Coast Highway upgrades (State election issue).
- Rex Airline in administration - consequences for City:

- \$456K debt to the City
- Albany Airport is regional infrastructure, servicing the broader Great Southern Region.
- City's ratepayers are currently carrying all risk associated with airport operations, and now Rex Airline debts.
- City made a grant application for \$10M toward a \$30M project to upgrade the runway (tarmac thickness only, length is sufficient for 737 aircraft). However Federal Government has only offered \$2.5M toward the project on the basis that the City derives 'profit' from airport operations.
- City is advocating for State financial support (State election issue). City may call on Zone Members to assist and support in this advocacy to ensure the Airport remains viable to support regional economic outcomes.

#### **Shire of Denmark**

- Noted, aligned with Denmark's motion supported by the Zone at its 19 April 2024 meeting, the recently amended *Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Regulations 1997*, which take effect on 1 September enabling Local Government to approve temporary accommodation in caravans, converted buses and tiny homes for periods up to two years.
- The Shire is progressing development of a Local Planning Policy to guide temporary accommodation decisions under the amended *Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Regulations 1997*, and the Shire will be happy to share the finalised policy with other interested Zone Members.

#### **Shire of Gnowangerup**

- Shire has recently contracted GP services at a cost of \$410K p/annum, which equates to approximately 8% of rates revenue.
- Shire has decided not to celebrate Australia Day on 26<sup>th</sup> January public holiday, for reasons of cultural sensitivity and recipients of the Shire's Australia Day Citizen Awards often being out of town for the public holiday. Whilst the decision attracted some negative comments it has been substantially supported by the community.
- Shire events:
  - Kate Lamont Luncheon (150 pax) – 21 September 2024
  - Wild Gravel in the Stirling Ranges – 5 October 2024

#### **Shire of Jerramungup**

- Shire, in partnership with Shire of Gnowangerup, is developing a Bush Fire Risk Mitigation Plan – stakeholder consultation is in progress.
- New Police Officer has been appointed without housing. Department of Communities has requested Shire to find housing.
- SW Settlement land transfer of coastal areas to occur in March 2025. Shire has been engaging with Traditional Owners to understand how they will manage public access and responsibility for land management e.g. bush fire mitigation, access road maintenance, rubbish and illegal dumping, agreements for Shire to enforce Local Laws, etc.
  - Community concerns that coastal areas that have historically been open for public access, will be closed or become inaccessible if road infrastructure is not maintained.

#### **Shire of Katanning**

- Shire is conducting a review of the sale yard operations and management structures to quantify current and future costs to the Shire.
- State Government has determined that the Katanning Hostel is to be demolished, with mixed community response. Shire appreciates that now the decision has been



made there is opportunity to work with State Government for what happens next with the site.

- Shire is continuing to advocate for funding of an Early Childhood Hub, with \$2M provided by Mindaroo Foundation.
- Department of Communities has committed to upgrade of the women's refuge, however there is currently no men's refuge or emergency accommodation facilities in the Shire / region.
- Shire is to be the location for a new NDIS pilot.
- CRC is rolling out Staying in Place education sessions.
- Katanning Agricultural Show and National Shearing Competition on 25 October 2025.

#### **Shire of Kojonup**

- Shire advised they are proposing to bring an item to the November Zone meeting, proposing an innovative method for funding and delivering GP / Primary Health Care in the regions.

#### **Shire of Plantagenet**

- Shire is focused on completing its pool redevelopment and housing projects.

#### **Meeting Noted**

- The Patients Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) c/per km claimable expense has been increased. Encourage communities to make claims against the scheme as the claims data is used to identify and plan health service delivery in regional WA.

## **10 OTHER BUSINESS**

Nil.

## **11 NEXT ZONE MEETING**

The next meeting of the Great Southern Country Zone will be held Friday, 22 November 2024 at the Shire of Katanning commencing at 10 am.

## **12 CLOSURE**

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12.25pm.

## Item 5.5 DLGSC Update - August 2024

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# Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Report

August 2024

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## Local Government Act Reform

### Tranche 1

- The *Local Government Amendment Act 2023*, containing the first tranche of reforms, was passed on 11 May 2023 and included priority reforms to election and council representation ahead of the October 2023 Local Government Elections.
- The electoral reforms included the introduction of optional preferential voting, changes to council member representation based on population, and abolishing the use of wards for smaller local governments.
- Tranche one reforms that were implemented without the need for further regulations included:
  - changes to special electors' meetings
  - compliance exemptions (due to emergency or unusual circumstances)
  - parental leave for council members
  - recording individual votes in minutes of council meetings.
- Three regulation amendments and 63 Governor's Orders were made in 2023 to prescribe detail related to reforms. These included:
  - model financial statements
  - constitutional reforms such as the introduction of class groupings and the alignment of council sizes to population size
  - electoral reforms such as optional preferential voting, backfilling and the public election of mayors and presidents
  - remuneration for independent committee members
  - broadcasting and recording of council meetings
  - owners and occupiers' enrolments
  - payment for council professional development and training.
- Various other regulations projects are currently in development or being drafted. These include:
  - standardised meeting procedures
  - council plans
  - community engagement charters
  - community surveys
  - online registers
  - publication of CEO key performance indicators
  - communications agreements
  - standardisation of crossovers and obstruction of public thoroughfares.

- The DLGSC provides regular updates to the local government sector on the progress of reforms via DLGSC's Reform webinar series, revisions to the DLGSC website and LG alerts.
- A three-month consultation process was recently undertaken to inform the drafting of standardised meeting procedures in regulations.
- The consultation opened on 28 February 2024 and finished on 7 June 2024.
- In total, DLGSC received 139 responses.
- All local governments, council members, local government CEOs, local government employees and community members were encouraged to make a submission.

### **Tranche 2**

- It is intended to introduce a Bill to Parliament this year for tranche two reforms.
- Tranche two reforms include:
  - the new Local Government Inspector
  - introduction of monitors for early intervention
  - council member superannuation
  - increasing penalties
  - enabling resource sharing
  - streamlining processes for model local laws
  - greater role clarity for council members and CEOs
  - introduction of a rates and revenue policy for local governments
  - changes to audit committees
  - providing greater flexibility for regional subsidiaries
  - building upgrade finance.
- Information about tranche two reforms will be provided to the sector as soon as appropriate via webinars, LG alerts and other opportunities as they arise.

### **Long Service Leave Regulations**

- The Local Government (Long Service Leave) Regulations 2024 were published on Wednesday 17 April 2024 and will come into effect on 1 September 2024.
- The Regulations have been made to modernise long service leave arrangements for employees working in the local government sector.
- The previous Regulations and corresponding industrial relations scheme had not been substantially updated since their introduction in the 1970s.
- The new Regulations will improve the operation of the local government long service leave portability scheme, which is an integral part of local government employment conditions. This means that when staff change employment from one local government to another, all their service in the local government sector counts towards their accrual of long service leave.
- The new Regulations introduce changes intended to strengthen the system of long service leave entitlements for local government employees, including:
  - a longer permitted period of break between local government sector employers that maintain continuity of service.
  - period of parental leave where the employee is being paid by the Commonwealth will count towards long service leave accrual.
  - employees can negotiate taking advanced long service leave and cashing out of long service leave with their employer.

- The DLGSC held a webinar on 30 April 2024 to explain the changes and answer questions.
- The webinar recording is available on DLGSC's website.
- More information about the Regulations are available on DLGSC's website.

## Model Financial Statements (MFS) and Financial

- Updated Model Financial Statements (MFS) guidelines and templates for Class 1 and 2, plus a reduced version for smaller local governments (Class 3 and 4) were published on the DLGSC website on 25 June 2024 and apply to 2023-24 annual financial statements.
- Amendments to the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 published on 18 October 2023 prescribed that non-financial assets only need to be valued every five years, and in the intervening years it was not necessary to review whether a revaluation was necessary.
- The new asset valuation requirements apply from the 2023-24 financial year onwards. Non-financial asset valuation guidelines are currently being prepared. A draft was presented to a sector body workshop held on 22 March 2024, and feedback is being addressed with a view to finalise and publish it by the end of July 2024.

Contact LG Accounting for queries – [Lg.accounting@dlgsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:Lg.accounting@dlgsc.wa.gov.au)

## Local Government Grants Commission

- The WA Local Government Grants Commission (the Commission) has multiple member and deputy positions with terms that end on 31 August 2024. The Chair is also vacant due to the resignation of Cr Dan Bull after his preselection as the WA Labor Candidate for Maylands. Work has progressed for multiple nominations for vacancies.
- The Commonwealth Minister for Local Government, the Hon Kristy McBain MP approved a bring forward payment, based on an advance pool equivalent to approximately 85 per cent of the total 2024-25 funding pool.
- This provided a payment of \$339,416,207 to be allocated to 137 WA local governments, with \$208,757,650 for General Purpose funds and \$130,658,557 for Local Roads.
- The Commonwealth advised that the advance of 85 per cent was being made on the 28 June 2024 to '[help councils facing immediate cash flow pressures, ensuring they can continue to delivery for their communities](#)'.
- Local Governments were advised that the advance payment meant remaining payments during 2024-25 would be limited and that they needed to ensure they have sufficient funds for 2023-24 to complete their planned programs and activities.
- Due to the 100 per cent advance from the prior year (2023-24 FA Grants), all WA local governments were either over or underpaid. The Commission had intended to recoup the variances from the 2024-25 funding, however with the large advance payment being made again, this may not be able to be finalised in the one financial year as expected.

- The Commission is currently working on finalising the allocations for the 2024-25 Financial Assistance Grants (FA Grants), with a meeting held on 22 July 2024 to finalise recommendations to the Commonwealth Minister.
- The remaining 15 per cent of 2024-25 FA Grants totals \$60,616,774 (being \$36,799,358 General Purpose and \$23,817,416 Local Roads) and will be distributed quarterly on 15 August 2024, 15 November 2024, 17 February 2025, and 15 May 2025.
- The Commission completed a visiting program to the Pilbara to conduct public hearings in October 2023, further visited nine local governments in the Upper Great Southern and Eastern Goldfields-South regions in April 2024 and recently visited four local governments in the Kimberley region in May 2024.

### Stop Puppy Farming

- The State Government is delivering on its commitment to stop and prevent puppy farming. These reforms have overwhelming community support.
- The *Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021* requires the design and development of a centralised registration system (CRS) for dogs and cats.
- The CRS will also assist with the registration of cats under the *Cat Act 2011*, and the development of regulations, in consultation with stakeholders.
- The DLGSC concluded a Design and Discovery phase for the CRS on 18 March 2024.
- DLGSC is continuing to engage local governments and other key stakeholders across the State to prepare for CRS implementation.
- Public consultation on the proposed regulations closed late last year, and the final regulations are in development.
- The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries has undertaken targeted consultation with local governments about the implementation of the stop puppy farming legislation.

### PetsWA

- Funding has been approved for PetsWA, the centralised registration system for dogs and cats through Digital Capability Fund.
- The contract has been awarded as per the Minister for Local Government's Media Statement on 2 August 2024.
- Onboarding of the project team commences on 5 August 2024.
- There will be a local government sector webinar on the PetsWA update scheduled for the week commencing 19 August 2024.

### Off Road Vehicles

- ORV committee are continuing to meet regularly.
- A private proponent is currently investigating the potential of an ORV area south of Perth.
- The government has invested \$100,000 to improve the ORV areas, specifically in York and Ledge Point.

- Upgrades at other sites are in the pipeline, as the search continues to expand Western Australia's ORV network.
- The future of Pinjar's ORV site was assured when the government decided to end pine harvesting in the Gnangara State Forest, to preserve the roosting habitat of the endangered black cockatoo and support the recreational use of the area.
- A safety assessment has been conducted at the Lancelin ORV area, within the Shire of Gingin with the final report to be delivered before the end of the financial year.

### **Local Government Election Commitments**

- The City of Bayswater's Riverside Gardens Urban Development project is on track. Detailed design is expected to be completed in June 2024, with an estimated project cost to be known at this time.
- The City of Gosnells' Sutherlands Park Youth (Skate) Plaza is on track. Detailed design is complete, and a contractor appointed for design and construction. Civil works are underway with main works commencing in August 2024 with expected completion in January 2025.
- The City of Joondalup's Greenwood Scout and Guide Hall Refurbishment project is on track with construction underway and due for completion in November 2024
- The City of Swan's Ellenbrook Community Hub project has completed community consultation and a detailed needs analysis. The City is currently finalising the detailed design to a 50 per cent brief by August 2024.

### **Ratability of Miscellaneous Licences**

- The State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) has recently determined that land subject to a Miscellaneous Licence is not subject to local government rates under any circumstances,
- The DLGSC has already issued an LG alert to warn regional local governments of this issue.
- The DLGSC is also preparing to consult with regional areas to identify whether any local governments have been charging rates over miscellaneous licences or intended to do so.
- The intention of the consultation is to quantify the potential financial impact that this SAT decision has had on the sector.
- The DLGSC has been advised that the local government involved in the SAT decision is intending to appeal that decision, on the grounds that it contains errors of law.
- In the meantime, the DLGSC is continuing to process "change in method of valuation" applications, on the grounds that a change in method of valuation has no impact on a land's ratability or non-ratability.
- However, all approvals for these applications are being issued with provisos, reiterating that a change in method of valuation does not impact ratability.

### **Local Government Partnerships and Sponsorships**

- To support the local government sector, the DLGSC provides various sponsorship or partnerships with key sector bodies. Over 2023/24, DLGSC provided sponsorships or partnerships to:

- WALGA
  - LG Professionals WA
  - Reconciliation WA
  - Telethon
  - Town Team Movement
- For 2024/25 so far, DLGSC has committed to providing sponsorships to:
    - WALGA for their annual convention and Awards evening in August.
    - LG Professionals WA – being finalised
    - Town Team Movement for the Minister's Place Innovation Awards 2024 and the Town Teams Conference in Northam.

**Placemaking Training Initiative**

- In 2023/24 DLGSC engaged Town Team Movement to deliver 12 months of free online placemaking training to the WA local government sector.
- Placemaking helps build community connections by bringing together planners, community members, architects, local government, business and other groups, working collaboratively to activate local spaces.
- Hundreds of local government staff from councils across WA accessed the free training in its first year.
- Due to strong interest from the sector, DLGSC has extended the Placemaking training partnership with Town Team Movement for 12 months.
- Local government staff and elected officials have another year to access the training, with funding for the program extended until July 2025 in response to strong interest from the sector.

**DLGSC Contacts**

LG Support and Engagement	<a href="mailto:lghotline@dlgsc.wa.gov.au">lghotline@dlgsc.wa.gov.au</a>
LG Policy and Legislation	<a href="mailto:legislation@dlgsc.wa.gov.au">legislation@dlgsc.wa.gov.au</a>
CRS – Stop Puppy Farming	<a href="mailto:puppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au">puppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au</a>
Grants Commission – Financial Assistance Grants	<a href="mailto:Grants.commission@dlgsc.wa.gov.au">Grants.commission@dlgsc.wa.gov.au</a>
LG accounting enquiries	<a href="mailto:LG.accounting@dlgsc.wa.gov.au">LG.accounting@dlgsc.wa.gov.au</a>
LG Act Reform	<a href="mailto:actreview@dlgsc.wa.gov.au">actreview@dlgsc.wa.gov.au</a>
LG Advisory Board	<a href="mailto:advisoryboard@dlgsc.wa.gov.au">advisoryboard@dlgsc.wa.gov.au</a>

Item 6.2 Zone Status Report - August 2024

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## COMPLETE ZONE STATUS REPORT August 2024

Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
24 November 2023 Zone Agenda Item 8.3.2. Appeal for Remedial Action on Education Policy and Procedures in Country Schools	<p>That the Western Australian Local Government Association Great Southern Zone (WALGA) request that WALGA strongly advocates to the Department of Education (Department) on behalf of rural and remote districts that greater efforts be made to reduce the inequality of educational opportunity with particular reference to the following:</p> <p>1. That the Department makes available resources for intervention in the experience of students specifically disaffected by the current model of schooling who are disruptive, falling behind and at risk of failing to learn to read, write and work in basic arithmetic; including intensive attention combined with health and like issues and more active, empathic, and practical instruction.</p> <p>2. That the Department makes available the current resources of Distant Education and/or enables families to access similar private providers for secondary education in order that students can study for an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank), or other subjects of their own choosing, using internet resources and mentors provided in the schools closest to them; and</p> <p>3. That the Department subsidises housing suitable for teachers or enables local governments to build and manage such housing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This matter was referred to the People and Place Policy Team for consideration at its February 2024 meeting.</li> <li>• The People and Place Policy Team resolved:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note the request of the Great Southern Country Zone and the issues raised regarding education policy and procedures,</li> <li>2. Recommends that State Council consider the issue as a key policy priority in the 2024 Policy Priorities.</li> <li>3. Recommends that the Great Southern Country Zone continue to advocate directly to the relevant State agencies on this issue, including further representations to the Minister for Education and Department of Education and Department of Communities.</li> <li>4. Recommends that the Great Southern Zone inform other country zones of this advocacy position with a view to possible cooperation.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p>WALGA notes that the Great Southern Country Zone requested other zones to support the motion. Eight Zones have agreed to write to the Minister of Education on the matter of reducing regional disadvantage in educational opportunities.</p> <p>WALGA understands that the Great Southern Zone received a response to their letter to the Minister of Education on this issue on 24 April 2024. The letter references a number of initiatives including a \$7.1 million funding boost for the School of Isolated and Distance Education, a proposed expansion of VET certificates in the coming years, Education and Training Participation Plans, the support provided by the</p>	August 2024	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039



		<p>School of Special Educational Needs: Behaviour and Engagement located in Albany, the recently announced federally funded two new Regional University Study Hubs, further financial investment in the attraction and retention payments/packages, and a developing Regional Education Strategy.</p> <p>WALGA notes that 2024-25 State Budget included an additional \$10 million for the School of Isolated and Distance Education.</p> <p>On the 22 July, the Department of Education released a draft <a href="#">Regional Education Strategy</a>. The Strategy aims to provide a framework to guide more effective delivery of regional education, focusing on improved educational and wellbeing opportunities across four pillars:  Pillar 1: Build the capability of our regional workforce  Pillar 2: Expand curriculum delivery  Pillar 3: Strengthen support for student wellbeing  Pillar 4: Develop partnerships to create opportunity</p> <p>Country zones and Local Governments are strongly encouraged to provide feedback on the strategy, particularly given the relevance of the Strategy to matters raised by the Great Southern Zone with support from other country zones.</p> <p>The consultation period closes on Friday 20 September 2024. <a href="#">More information is available here</a>.</p> <p>WALGA has partnered with the Department of Education to facilitate an information and feedback session on the Strategy priority pillars. The session will be held online on Wednesday 21 August 2:30 -3.:30pm. A registration link will be sent via LG Direct.</p>	
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<p>25 August 2023 Zone Agenda Item <b>7.3.1 Western Power Headworks</b> – Lead time for quotes</p>	<p>That the Great Southern Country Zone request WALGA advocacy to State Government to reduce the time taken for Western Power to provide quotes to a maximum of three months.</p>	<p>WALGA CEO and senior staff met with a team from Western Power on 29 July to, amongst other things, highlight the frustration experienced by Local Governments seeking quotes, and delivering work on the Western Power network.</p> <p>Acknowledged that the new portal offers Local Government officers additional information about the progress of a request.</p> <p>Highlighted that the current time frames are not acceptable to Local Governments and sought advice on measures being implemented by Western Power to reduce the backlog. One additional designer has recently been appointed.</p> <p>WALGA proposed Western Power reintroduce the Option B arrangements that allowed Local Governments to directly engage pre-approved designers and contractors to undertake work on the Western Power network.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure <a href="mailto:iduncan@walga.asn.au">iduncan@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2031</p>
<p>19 April 2024 Zone Agenda Item <b>7.2.2 Zone Strategic Priorities</b> <b>Workshop Outcomes</b></p>	<p>The Great Southern Country Zone requests:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. WALGA advocacy to State Government for the Government Regional Officer Housing Program to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Increase State Government capital investment in the GROH program and review and address the impact of current policy settings on the wider regional housing shortage, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. GROH Leasing and purchasing from the established residential private market (Spot Purchase program).</li> <li>ii. Prioritise the State’s development of land to service GROH demand and reduce pressure on already constrained availability of regional residential land supplies.</li> </ol> </li> <li>b. Review the GROH program policy settings, so that proposals for GROH development in partnership with Local Government align to regional commercial viability and financial capacity of the Local Government, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Enabling State Agency leasing agreement periods of 20 years or greater.</li> <li>ii. State Agency contribution to capital costs, with commensurate lower rental returns.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>WALGA acknowledges the ongoing housing supply challenges members are facing.</p> <p>WALGA is meeting with the Housing Supply Unit on 13 June.</p> <p>The Deputy Director General, Housing and Assets presented at the 10 July 2024 State Council Strategic Forum. The presentation included an offer to Local Governments to submit expressions of interest for partnership on social and affordable housing as well the Government Regional Officer Housing program, including those that request variations to the current program parameters – such as rent returns or interest free loans.</p> <p>WALGA continues to advocate for State Government to optimize partnership opportunities with Local Government that make capital investment in housing supply viable.</p> <p>Draft advocacy positions in relation to planning for renewable energy facilities; the need for improvements to</p>	<p>August 2024</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy <a href="mailto:nmatthews@walga.asn.au">nmatthews@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2039</p>

	<p>c. Release the GROH Program Review, undertaken by the Department of Communities in 2023, to facilitate further discussion of the viability and future of GROH program policy settings as it relates to the Local Government sector and regional housing availability.</p> <p>2. The Zone Secretariat write to the responsible Minister/s advocating for the matters outlined in Part 1 above.</p>	<p>the State planning framework to provide sufficient statutory protections for areas that have been identified as High Quality Agricultural Land; and for the State Government to develop a robust and comprehensive framework for engagement with Local Government and communities to manage impacts and realise community benefits from projects are included in the September State Council agenda as items for decision.</p> <p>It is intended that the draft positions will be included in the agenda for consideration at the September State Council meeting.</p> <p>WALGA has raised these issues in a meeting with the Minister for the Environment; Energy; Climate Action.</p>		
<p>19 April 2024 Zone Agenda Item <b>7.3.3 Modifications to the Caravan Ground and Camping Regulations to Facilitate Living in a Tiny House on Wheels</b></p>	<p>That the Great Southern County Zone:</p> <p>1. Supports changes to Part 2(b) of the Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Regulations 1997 that allow Local Governments to consider camping on private property for a period of up to 12 months greater than 3-months.</p> <p>2. Allows Local Governments to establish policy to guide approvals beyond 3 months to ensure that camping is locally appropriate and provide for circumstances where tiny houses can be occupied on a more permanent basis.</p> <p>3. Calls on WALGA to adopt a sector wide advocacy position in relation to 1 and 2, above.</p>	<p>State Council Resolution</p> <p>That State Council endorse a new Caravan Park and Camping Grounds Regulations Advocacy Position:</p> <p>Part 2 of the Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Regulations 1997 should be amended to allow Local Governments to:</p> <p>1. Consider camping on private property for a period of greater of three months.</p> <p>2. Establish policy to guide approvals beyond 3 months to ensure that camping is locally appropriate and provide for circumstances where caravans, predominantly in the form of tiny homes on wheels, can be occupied on a more permanent basis.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 046.3/2024</p>	<p><b>August 2024</b></p>	<p><b>Nicole Matthews</b> Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039</p>

## Item 6.2 Zone Action Items - August 2024

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<b>Great Southern Country Zone – ACTION ITEMS</b>				
<b>ZONE MEETING DATE / ITEM</b>	<b>ZONE RESOLUTION</b>	<b>ZONE RESPONSE</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE PERSON</b>
<b>2024, 21 June</b> Item 4.3 CBH Group – Request to Attend Zone Meetings	That the Great Southern Country Zone AGREES to invite CBH Group’s Manager Government and Industry Relations to attend future Zone meetings and provide an agency report aligned to Local Government matters.	Kellie Todman, Manager Government, CBH Group has been included in the Zone’s regular Guest list.	<b>COMPLETED</b> GSCZ 23 Aug 2024	Meghan Dwyer Executive Officer Governance WALGA
<b>2024, 21 June</b> Item 7.1.3 DAMA Working Group Update	That the Great Southern Zone requests that the Zone Executive Officer write to the Hon Andrew Giles, Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs advising the Zone is requesting a response to its request for a Great Southern DAMA.	GSCZ Letter to Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs sent by email 28 June 2024	<b>COMPLETED</b> GSCZ 23 Aug 2024	Meghan Dwyer Executive Officer Governance WALGA
<b>2024, 21 June</b> Item 7.2.2 Regional Education Opportunities Advocacy	That the Great Southern Country Zone write to the Minister for Education, thanking the Minister for his response to the Zone dated 24 April 2024 (Attachment 5) and requesting details of State 2024/25 budget allocations directed to programs and projects in the Great Southern Region that address the Zone’s regional education opportunities advocacy.			
<b>2024, 21 June</b> Item 7.2.3 Zone Strategic Priorities – Skilled Worker Attraction and Retention	That the Great Southern Country Zone write to Rebecca Stephens MLA, requesting assistance on the Zones DAMA application.			
<b>2024, 21 June</b> Item 7.3.2 Economic Regulation Authority	That the Great Southern Country Zone supports a presentation from Economic Regulation Authority Chair, Steve Edwell at the 22 November meeting in Katanning.	Economic Regulation Authority tentatively booked to attend GSCZ November meeting. To be confirmed closer to the meeting date.	ONGOING GSCZ 23 Aug 2024	Chantelle O'Brien Governance Support Officer.

Great Southern Country Zone – ACTION ITEMS				
ZONE MEETING DATE / ITEM	ZONE RESOLUTION	ZONE RESPONSE	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
<b>2024, 21 June</b> Item 9.2 Live Sheep Export Ban	<p>That the Great Southern Country Zone representing the Local Governments of Albany, Broomehill-Tambellup, Cranbrook, Denmark, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Katanning, Kent, Kojonup, Plantagenet and Woodanilling resolves that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Governance process by which the decision was made does not accord with good public policy principles. It does not fit the science, did not involve genuine engagement and appears to be based on political ideology which does not serve the regional, state or national interest.</li> <li>the Federal Government withdraws its current Export Control Amendment (Ending Live Sheep Exports by Sea) Bill 2024 and if this is not achieved then, advocate to the Federal Minister for Agriculture to launch a Senate inquiry into the Export Control Amendment (Ending Live Sheep Exports by Sea) Bill 2024.</li> <li>express disappointment in the Federal Government and lack of acknowledgement and understanding of the impact on regional communities that decisions like this have.</li> <li>a letter to the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and minor parties, be written detailing the above be signed by the President of the Great Southern Country Zone on behalf of members.</li> <li>The Supporting document from the Local Governments that commissioned an economic study into the impact of ceasing live sheep export be provided.</li> </ul>	Letters were sent by email on 28 June 2024 to: Prime Minister Leader of the Opposition Leader of Aust. Greens Leader of the Nationals Leader of the Liberal Party	<b>COMPLETED</b> GSCZ 23 Aug 2024	<b>Meghan Dwyer</b> Governance Support Officer.
<b>2022, 28 Oct</b> Item 7.2.4 Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) Project	7. Endorse the Shire of Kojonup CEO and the Regional Development Authority Great Southern Inc CEO to act jointly as the Zone representatives for communication between the consultant and the Zone and member Local Governments to facilitate preparation of the Business Plan.	<b>21 Apr 2023:</b> Phase 1 and 2 of the EY consultancy have been completed – refer DAMA Working Group and RDAGS reports at the April 2023 meeting. <b>23 Jun 2023</b> – Phase 3 of the EY consultancy has been completed (business case submitted to Dpt of Home Affairs). Item completion will be subject to any additional	ONGOING (no change)	Kojonup CEO RDAGS CEO

Great Southern Country Zone – ACTION ITEMS				
ZONE MEETING DATE / ITEM	ZONE RESOLUTION	ZONE RESPONSE	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
		work required following feedback from the Dept / Minister – expected late June 2023. <b>24 Nov 2023</b> – Updated Business Case submitted to DoHA. <u>Updates provided:</u> no change to status - <b>23 Feb 2024, 21 Jun 2024, 23 Aug 2024</b>		
<b>2022, 26 Aug</b> Item 7.21 Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA)	<p>That a working group consisting of three Great Southern Local Government Authority CEOs from the Shires of Kojonup, Katanning and Plantagenet, and the Great Southern Country Zone President, be established to progress the DAMA on behalf of all committed Great Southern Local Governments.</p> <p><u>DAMA Working Group Charter:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recommending the committed Local Government's consult with their respective industries on skill shortages and gather supporting evidence by Friday, 23 Sept 2022.</li> <li>2. (a) Review the other WA DAMA business cases and their learnings to determine our process and next steps; and (b) Prepare a draft budget and scope of works for the business case and prepare a shortlist of suitable contractors to quote on the business case by 17 Oct 2022.</li> <li>3. Prepare the final report with recommendations for the next Great Southern Country Zone meeting on Friday, 28 October 2022.</li> </ol> <p>The meeting AGREED that the DAMA Working Group meetings should include representation from the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) and Regional Development Australia Great Southern (RDA-GS)</p>	<p>Working Group Terms of Reference conclude as at 28 October 2022.</p> <p><b>GSCZ 28/10/2022</b> - refer item 7.2.4 -Resolution to extend Charter:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. Endorse the Great Southern Country Zone DAMA Working Group Charter being extended to include review and recommendation to the Zone of the Draft Business Case.</li> </ol> <p><b>23 Jun 2023</b> – Phase 3 of the EY consultancy has been completed (business case submitted to Dpt of Home Affairs). Working Group will be wound up subject to any additional work required following feedback from the Dept / Minister – expected late June 2023.</p> <p><b>23 Feb 2024</b> – Refer item 7.2.1 – update on DAMA application with DoHA</p>	ONGOING	DAMA Working Group (Zone)

Item 7.2.2 Zone Strategic Priority – Housing

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**Hon Simone McGurk MLA**  
Minister for Training and Workforce Development;  
Water; Industrial Relations

Our Ref: 74-76175

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WEST PERTH WA 6872  
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[cobrien@walga.asn.au](mailto:cobrien@walga.asn.au)

Dear Cr Crosby

Thank you for your correspondence received 29 May 2024 regarding Water Corporation and residential development in WALGA's Great Southern Country Zone.

The State Government is committed to supporting Western Australia's regions. The 2024-25 State Budget has a record \$12.8 billion investment in regional infrastructure, and billions more to fund regional service delivery across Western Australia. Water Corporation also has its own asset investment program which supports growth in supply and demand.

As you will likely be aware, most land development and new building in the Great Southern Country Zone occurs in the regional centres of Albany, Denmark, Mt Barker, Esperance and Katanning.

Water Corporation also provides services to 28 smaller towns. Development proposals in towns where growth may be low and where populations are declining, often still have significant servicing requirements and may not be commercially viable, especially where water source and wastewater treatment capacity is constrained, as is the case in Pingrup.

In mid-2020, the Shire of Kent applied for additional water services to supply several new residential lots as part of a proposed development. Water Corporation advised the Shire that based on current servicing obligations the main supply Pingrup is at capacity. There are also vacant serviced lots which Water Corporation needs to maintain scheme capacity for, in the event they are developed.

I am advised the main supplying Pingrup would need to be upgraded to provide for any additional developments and the cost associated is likely to be very high as the pipeline runs for 110km. Due to the high cost and low number of potential customers it would benefit, upgrades will be difficult to justify against competing fiscal priorities.

Regarding costs for headworks, Standard Infrastructure Charges (SICs), also known as headworks charges, are levied at development stage. These charges fund the delivery of large transmission infrastructure to support development. This method of funding is endorsed by the Economic Regulation Authority and the land development industry and has been a long-standing business practice of Water Corporation.

Level 8, Dumas House, 2 Havelock Street, West Perth, Western Australia, 6005  
Telephone: +61 8 6552 6600 Facsimile: +61 8 6552 6601 Email: [Minister.McGurk@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:Minister.McGurk@dpc.wa.gov.au)

2

SICs are calculated based on historical and forecast expenditure to minimise significant cost fluctuations and give the land development industry a stable pricing model to work with. While costs associated with land development have gone up significantly, SICs have remained relatively stable. Currently SICs represent around 2-3% of average development costs across the State.

Notwithstanding the above, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage through its Infrastructure Development Fund has funding available to support developers with costs associated with the provision of infrastructure and SICs. A portion of the fund is aimed supporting delivery of housing and accommodation for key workers in regional areas. Further information is available at [www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2024-03/infrastructure\\_development\\_fund\\_stream\\_3a.pdf](http://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2024-03/infrastructure_development_fund_stream_3a.pdf)

With regard to your comment about Water Corporation providing quotes and completing headworks within a reasonable timeframe. Water Corporation does not provide quotes. In accordance with the Infrastructure Network Model, the delivery of large headworks infrastructure needed to serve new developments is managed by Water Corporation, and developers are responsible for the delivery of reticulation assets.

As a result, when development is orderly and adjacent to other existing services, and if the developer requires the construction of headworks assets, Water Corporation will work with the developer to program the delivery of these assets in time to service the development. When development is not orderly or is remote from existing services, the developer is responsible for the extension of the scheme to their development, including the costs to do so.

If you, or your members have specific examples to discuss, I encourage you to contact Mr Scott Moorhead, Head of Development Services at Water Corporation on 6330 6507.

Thank you again for taking the time to write to me. I trust the information I have provided is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



HON SIMONE MCGURK MLA  
MINISTER FOR WATER

4 July 2024



Item 7.2.3 Live Export Ban – Responses to Advocacy

[Back to Item 7.2.3](#)



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT  
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY  
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MC24-004533

Councillor Scott Crosby  
Chair  
Great Southern Country Zone Walga  
PO Box 1544  
WEST PERTH WA 6872

[lfogg@walga.asn.au](mailto:lfogg@walga.asn.au)

Dear Chair

Thank you for your letter of 28 June 2024 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, concerning your opposition to the live sheep export ban. Your correspondence has been referred to me as the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, as the matters you have raised fall within my portfolio responsibilities.

The Australian Government went to the last two elections with a commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea. We are honouring our commitment to the Australian people. Legislation now sets 1 May 2028 as the end date for the trade.

The government's decisions are based on careful consideration of the advice of an independent panel, which is underpinned by extensive consultation and consideration of over 800 written submissions, a wide range of existing data and analysis and specifically commissioned analysis.

The government's transition plan includes the provision of certainty and time for the trade to adjust before it ends on 1 May 2028. Four years provides time for sheep producers, the sheep supply chain and trading partners to plan and take action and for markets to adjust.

I acknowledge the concerns you have raised about the impact on individuals, businesses and communities involved in the trade. I have been clear that I understand this is a difficult policy for some, and that it will have impacts and require adjustments. The government has also committed \$107 million over five years from 2024-25 to assist with the transition away from the trade. This package includes significant support for farmers and the supply-chain, including \$64.6 million to assist businesses to plan and implement transition actions and \$27 million to enhance demand within Australia and internationally for sheep products. This is to support those affected by the phase out to be well-positioned, resilient and ready when the trade ends.

Our transition plan reflects the recommendations of the independent panel and enables farmers and the supply-chain to adapt through increased value-adding onshore. To that end, the recent House of Representatives Standing Committee on Agriculture Inquiry heard evidence that the government's policy would create between 500-800 direct jobs in meat processing, with many more indirect jobs to flow. This means more jobs for Western Australia (WA) and paves the way for WA farmers to further leverage Australia's \$7 billion sheep meat market.

The live export trade is still operating for the next four years without caps or quotas. This provides a stable framework for all participants in the supply chain to continue to operate and make decisions on when and how they will cease participating in the trade by reference to their own individual circumstances.

Thank you again for writing on this matter. I have copied this letter to the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Watt', is positioned above the printed name.

MURRAY WATT

24 / 07 / 2024

cc: The Hon Anthony Albanese MP  
Prime Minister

# President's Report

## September 2024

### Introduction

The months of July and August have been extremely busy for the Local Government sector.

I have been strongly advocating on behalf of all Local Governments on key issues, including Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB), Urban Greening, Energy Transition, Aboriginal Heritage, and Regional Education. In addition, WA was well represented at ALGA's National General Assembly and the Commonwealth Governments Australian Council of Local Governments (ACLG) forum. I outline these issues in further detail in this report.

### State Election Campaign

The State Election campaign is well underway with a State Election Priorities document prepared, dedicated microsite built, and public media campaign planned to support our advocacy and increase visibility in the run up to the election. WALGA will share assets that each Local Government can personalise to fit their local challenges and priorities, as well as liaise with Councils to capture stories that can support each key advocacy area.

WALGA has prepared a comprehensive political engagement strategy to be implemented in the lead up to the 2025 Election. The objectives of the strategy are:

- Influence election policy development and commitments from all parties
- Maintaining relationships with key decision makers and Members of Parliament
- Educating current and future members of Parliament about WALGA and the Local Government sector

### Polyphagous shot-hole borer

WALGA and Local Governments continue focusing on the impact of Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) in meetings with the State Government and in the media.

In early July, WALGA met with the Minister responsible for the PSHB response Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC, to discuss Local Governments' concerns and the need to escalate and commit additional funding for the response and to rebuild lost canopy.

WALGA, the City of Perth and the City of Vincent also presented to the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests (CCEEP), Australia's key technical body for coordinating the national response to the PSHB incursion. The Committee met in Perth on 16-18 July to inspect infested sites and see the extent of response activities being implemented by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and Local Government and deliberate on whether it is still technically feasible to eradicate PSHB.

**Urban Greening Grants**

The Urban Greening Grant Program provides \$3.75 million (ex GST) to support additional tree and understorey planting for the 33 Local Governments located in the Boorloo (Perth) and Bindjareb (Peel) regions. Round 1 awarded \$591,839 to 12 Local Governments. \$2.8m was available for Round 2, to support planting in the winter of 2025. Round 2 opened in early May and closed on 28 June. Round 2 funding will be awarded in early August.

**Energy Transition**

There is growing concern that the State Government does not have a framework for how the energy transition that is currently underway will benefit the impacted communities, and that the state planning framework is not fit to manage this growing and rapidly challenging area of policy.

These discussions and concerns have been brought forward to WALGA through a number of zones and are reflected in the draft Energy Transition Engagement and Community Benefit Framework Advocacy Position, Renewable Energy Facilities Advocacy Position, and the draft Priority Agriculture Position Statement items for decision in the September State Council Agenda.

**Aboriginal Heritage legislation**

WALGA continues to support members to navigate their responsibilities under the amended *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*. Since we last met, WALGA has attended a Native Title and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Roundtable with the Goldfields-Esperance Country Zone, Goldfields Esperance Development Commission and other representatives.

WALGA is continuing to foster the working relationships between Local Governments and regional representatives of DPLH through these roundtable discussions. Planning for future sessions is underway for the South West and the Great Eastern country zones.

**Regional Education Strategy**

On 22 July, the Department of Education released a draft Regional Education Strategy. The Strategy aims to provide a framework to guide more effective delivery of regional education, focusing on improved education and wellbeing. This provides an excellent opportunity to provide direct feedback and comment to the Department on the issues have raised through recent Zone motions. To support members, WALGA has partnered with the Department of Education to facilitate an information and feedback session on the Strategy priority pillars. The session will be held online on Wednesday, 21 August 2:30pm - 3:30pm. A registration link will be sent via LG Direct.

**ALGA National General Assembly**

From 2 to 4 July, WALGA joined 134 WA delegates from 45 Local Governments at the Australian Local Government Association's (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA) in Canberra.

Hosted at the National Convention Centre in Canberra, the event provided opportunities for Local Governments to advocate on behalf of their communities on a national platform.

Eight WA Local Governments (Shire of Ashburton, Town of Bassendean, City of Bayswater, City of Cockburn, Shire of Dundas, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, City of Melville, and City of Stirling) passed 10 successful motions at the NGA including regional health services, arts and culture, Closing the Gap, sustainability, emergency management and climate resilience.

I was proud to support and advocate on behalf of our 139 Member Local Governments in Canberra and advocate in key areas including climate resilience, emergency management, connected communities, infrastructure, and the future of Local Government.

The attendance of Members from across WA and the presentation of 10 successful motions conveys the important role of Local Government in identifying and addressing key issues as the tier of Government closest to their community. WALGA was pleased to host a WA delegates function on the night before the NGA, where it was great for WA delegates to network together.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, and the Arts *National Awards for Local Government* were also hosted at the culmination of the week.

The National Awards highlight initiatives implemented by Local Governments that are innovative, make a difference to their local communities, display excellence, and have outcomes that are replicable across the country.

WALGA extends its congratulations to the Shire of Chittering, City of Gosnells, City of Greater Geraldton, and City of Stirling who were all awarded National Awards for Local Government for their work with women in Local Government, addressing violence against women and their children, disaster readiness, and recovery and productivity through infrastructure.

In addition, the Commonwealth Government hosted the Australian Council of Local Governments (ACLG) forum on Friday 5 July, and this was a wonderful opportunity for delegates to discuss issues and ask questions of Federal Cabinet Ministers.

### **2024 Local Government Awards**

The Local Government Awards was held on 2 August at Winthrop Hall, UWA. 280 guests attended the first stand-alone event to celebrate individuals and teams who exemplify the ethos of and display excellence in Local Government. It was a fantastic evening recognising those that go above and beyond for their community and I congratulate the winners again for their achievements.

### **Local Government House Trust – 100% Owners of ONE70 (170) Railway Parade West Leederville**

On 1 July, the Local Government House Trust ('The House Trust'), which has provided building accommodation to WALGA and its predecessors since 1980, became 100% owners of ONE70 (170) Railway Parade. For WALGA, this secures a permanent home for the Association and enables WALGA to future-proof its support and service offerings for our valued Members.

With the 10-year Joint Venture arrangement with Qube Property coming to an end, exercising our option to purchase Qube's 40 per cent share of this 5-star Naber-rated building was a natural progression, closing the loop from construction to full ownership.

Taking full ownership of ONE70 allows WALGA to plan for the future. Ownership provides the stability and capital to focus on increasing and enhancing our service offerings, so that we can continue to advocate, support and provide expertise to our valued Member Councils and the sector well into the future.

The buyout allows the House Trust to realise the strategic and financial benefits of full ownership. This means that WALGA should never need to move premises in the future, as additional space will provide long-term scalability if required.

Purchasing the building also means that WALGA can provide its Members with a dedicated Hub. Recognising that many Members travel great distances when visiting Perth, there will now always be a home away from home for Members to work from, network and connect at WALGA.

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

## President's Contacts

The President's contacts since 10 July 2024 and scheduled before 4 September 2024 are as follows:

### State and Commonwealth Government Relations

- Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia - Inquiry into Workforce Development
- Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Local Government; Youth; Minister Assisting the Minister for Training and Workforce Development
- Hon David Michael MLA, Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Ports; Road Safety; Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport
- Premier Hon Roger Cook MLA, Premier of Western Australia
- Hon Sue Ellery BA MLC, Minister for Finance and the Leader in the Legislative Council
- National Tree Day event at City of Bayswater with Hon Reece Whitby MLA, Minister for Energy; Environment; Climate Action and Mayor Filomena Piffaretti

### Zone Meetings

- Kimberley Country Zone Meeting
- Northern Country Zone meeting

### Local Government Relations

- **State Council Meetings**
  - State Council Meeting, 10 July 2024
  - Finance and Services Committee Meeting
  - State Council Information Forum
- **ALGA**
  - ALGA Board post NGA teleconference
  - ALGA Housing Summit, 16 August 2024
- **LGIS**
  - Board Meeting, 12 July 2024
  - Board Meeting, 23 August 2024
- St John Safe Streets meeting
- Pathways to Politics for Women Advisory Committee Meeting
- Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund Board Meeting
- Morawa Art Show
- State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee Meeting

### Conferences, Workshops, Public Relations

- RAC Breakfast with Scott Bales
- WALGA Local Government Awards
- RCA Meeting
- National Housing Summit, Adelaide

**Member Visits:**

- Shire of Dandaragan,
- Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
- Shire of Victoria Plains
- Shire of Upper Gascoyne
- Shire of Carnarvon
- Shire of Exmouth
- Town of Cambridge
- City of Fremantle