



CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE

Minutes

**Friday 21 June 2019
via
Teleconference**

Commencing at 8:32 am

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Minutes

Central Country Zone of WALGA

Friday 21 June 2019, commencing at 8:32 am
via Teleconference

1.0 OPENING AND WELCOME

Cr Mark Conley welcomed delegates to the teleconference, commented that joint Executive Officer, Mr Bruce Wittber, has been unwell and is still recovering and thanked Mr Robert Dew, Executive Officer Avon-Midland Country Zone, for filling in for this meeting.

The purpose of the meeting is to consider the WALGA State Council Agenda.

2.0 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance

Cr Mark Conley (Chair)	President, Shire of Cuballing
Cr Dee Ridgway	President, Shire of Beverley
Cr Chris Pepper	Deputy President, Shire of Beverley
Mr Stephen Gollan	CEO, Shire of Beverley
Cr Neil Walker	Deputy President, Shire of Brookton
Mr Ian Darcy	CEO, Shire of Brookton
Cr Lyn Baker	President, Shire of Corrigin
Ms Natalie Manton	CEO, Shire of Corrigin
Mr Gary Sherry	CEO, Shire of Cuballing
Mr Paul Sheedy	A/CEO Shire of Dumbleyung
Cr Barry West	President, Shire of Kulin
Cr Jeanette De Landgraft	President, Shire of Lake Grace
Cr Stephen Hunt	Deputy President, Shire of Lake Grace
Ms Denise Gobbart	CEO, Shire of Lake Grace
President Leigh Ballard	President, Shire of Narrogin
Mr Dale Stewart	CEO, Shire of Narrogin
Cr David Freebairn	Deputy President, Shire of Pingelly
Cr Wayne Davies	President, Shire of Quairading
Cr Brett McGuinness	Deputy President, Shire of Quairading
Mr Graeme Fardon	CEO, Shire of Quairading
Mr Peter Webster	CEO, Shire of Wagin
Ms Belinda Knight	CEO Shire of Wandering
Ms Nicole Wasmann	CEO, Shire of West Arthur

Robert Dew, Minute Taker

WALGA Representatives

Mr Mark Bondiotti, Policy Manager Transport and Roads
Ms Kirstie Davis, Policy Manager Community

Guests

Nil

Apologies

Shire of Williams
Cr Katrina Crute
Cr Eliza Dowling
Cr Marilyn Hasleby
Cr Catherine Watkins
Cr Rodney Duckworth
Mr Garrick Yandle
Cr Bill Mulroney
Mr Mark Dacombe
Cr Tim Wiese
Cr Phil Blight
Cr Brendan Whitely
Cr Ray Harrington OAM
Mr Bruce Wittber, Joint Executive Officer
Ms Helen Wescott, Joint Executive Officer

President, Shire of Brookton
Deputy President, Shire of Cuballing
Councillor, Shire of Dumbleyung
Councillor, Shire of Dumbleyung
Deputy President, Shire of Kulin
CEO, Shire of Kulin
President, Shire of Pingelly
A/CEO Shire of Pingelly
Deputy President, Shire of Narrogin
President, Shire of Wagin
President, Shire of Wandering
President, Shire of West Arthur

3.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

4.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nil

5.0 GUEST SPEAKERS

Nil

6.0 MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes – Friday 24 May 2019 (Attachment)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Country Zone held on Friday 24 May 2019 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Baker** **Seconded: Cr Ridgway**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Country Zone held on Friday 24 May 2019 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

6.2 Business Arising from Minutes Zone Meeting Friday 24 May 2019

10.4 Future Wheatbelt Conference

RESOLUTION: *Moved: Cr Ridgway* *Seconded: President Ballard*

That the Central Country Zone does not support the holding of a Wheatbelt Conference in 2020 however the Zone will review the decision in relation to future Wheatbelt Conferences in May 2020.

CARRIED

The Executive Officer has advised both the Avon-Midland and Great Eastern Country Zones of Central Country Zone's decision.

NOTED

7.0 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WALGA) BUSINESS

Zone delegates to consider the Matters for Decision contained in the WA Local Government Association State Council Agenda and put forward resolutions to Zone Representatives on State Council

7.1 State Councillor Report

No report.

7.2 WALGA Status Report (Attachment)

From Executive Officer

BACKGROUND:

Presenting the status report for June 2019.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Central Country Zone notes the:

- State Councillor Report; and
- WALGA Status Report.

RESOLUTION: Moved: Cr McGuinness Seconded: Cr West

That the Central Country Zone notes the WALGA Status Report.

CARRIED

7.3 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Decision

From Executive Officer

Background:

WALGA State Council meets five times each year and as part of the consultation process with Member Councils circulates the State Council Agenda for input through the Zone structure.

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

5.1 National Redress and Local Government (05-086-03-0004 KD)

WALGA Recommendation

That WA Local Government participation in the State's National Redress Scheme declaration with full financial coverage by the State, be endorsed in principal, noting that further engagement with the sector will occur in the second half of 2019.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMMENT:

This item on the WALGA State Council Agenda is the culmination of a considerable body of work undertaken by both WALGA and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) following the release of the report arising from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The WALGA item provides a concise and informative background to the work undertaken and the reasons for the work being undertaken. As outlined in the agenda item, points to note include:

- The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse was established in January 2013.
- The WA Parliament passed legislation required to allow the Government and WA based non-government institutions to participate in the Scheme. The National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Act 2018 (WA) took effect on 21 November 2018.
- The Association, together with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) consulted with the Local Government sector to develop the Western Australian State Government Child Safety Implementation Plan which was provided as an Item for Decision at the WALGA State Council December 2018 meeting.
- From February 2019, DLGSC has been consulting Local Government on their preference and capacity to join the National Redress Scheme, with one option to join as a State Government agency under the definitions contained within the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018 (Cth).
- This report outlines outcomes from this consultation and provides a recommendation for final endorsement that is then subject to State Government consideration.

Ahead of the current round of Zone meetings the State Government, through DLGSC, has released an update on the scheme. A copy of the update, titled *National Redress Scheme – Update from the State Government on Engagement with WA Local Government regarding participation in the National Redress Scheme*, forms an attachment to the meeting agenda.

Member Councils have been requested to consider the attached document in conjunction with the WALGA State Council item.

The Executive Officer considers that the Zone should support the WALGA recommendation for reasons best illustrated in the concluding comments of the item in the WALGA State Council Agenda, which states:

The National Redress Scheme is established to provide an effective means of justice for survivors of abuse. Local Government should act decisively with the regard to acts of sexual abuse toward children and that joining redress is a sound organisational approach to risk management of child abuse both historically and for the future protection of communities.

ZONE COMMENT:

Zone supports the WALGA recommendation

Mr Peter Webster referred to the recommendation put forward some time ago that local governments appoint a Child Safety Officer and enquired if this was to be part of the Redress Scheme. Ms Kirstie Davis replied that the State Implementation Plan was still being developed and feedback would be available towards the end of this year.

Mr Graeme Fardon enquired as to the timeline for local government participation in the Redress Scheme. Ms Kirstie Davis replied that there was in principal agreement that local governments join the Redress Scheme with the State Government; the Scheme commenced on 1 January 2019 and as yet no claims have been made on a local government; plans are in place if a claim is made on a local government before agreement on local government participation in the Scheme is reached; the WA Local Government Association continues to consult with the State Government on local government participation; to date about 20 local governments have resolved to join the Scheme.

5.2 Draft Guidelines for Local Heritage Surveys and *Heritage Act 2018* Proclamation Regulations (05-071-03-0003 SM)

WALGA Recommendation

That the interim submission on the Draft Guidelines for Local Heritage Surveys and *Heritage Act 2018* Proclamation Regulations be endorsed.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMMENT:

The Executive Officer believes the interim should be endorsed as per the recommendation. As identified in the comments provided in the WALGA State Council agenda item, the consultation process adopted by the State Government enabled Local Government to contribute to the development of the Guidelines for Local Heritage Surveys. Further issues raised by Local Government in relation to the Draft Guidelines are covered within the Interim Submission

ZONE COMMENT:

Zone supports the WALGA recommendation

5.3 Review of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (Phase Two) (05-032-01-0001 SM)

WALGA Recommendation

That the interim submission on the Aboriginal Heritage Act Review Phase Two be endorsed.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMMENT:

The following is an extract from the WALGA State Council Agenda Report Background:

Feedback from members is largely supportive of the proposed reforms which seek to recognise the rights of Aboriginal people under national and international law to protect their cultural heritage and reflect current best practice heritage management principles. Significant matters raised in the Submission relate to the establishment, governance, financing, resourcing, fees and timeframes for services of Local Aboriginal Heritage Services, the relationship between the new Aboriginal heritage legislation and the Planning and Development Act 2005, and the use of standard heritage agreements between Local Government and Aboriginal people to facilitate consistency, transparency and certainty.

ZONE COMMENT:

Zone supports the WALGA recommendation

5.4 Planning for Bushfire Guidelines: Element 3 Vehicular Access (05-024-02-0056 CH)

WALGA Recommendation

That:

1. the interim submission to the Western Australian Planning Commission on the proposed modifications to Appendix 4 Element 3: Vehicular Access of the Planning for Bushfire Guidelines, be endorsed; and
2. WALGA formally advise the Western Australian Planning Commission that draft Appendix 4 Element 3 is not supported, due to significant concerns with the proposed modifications to road designs and difficulties in implementing the draft Guidelines.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMMENT:

The following is an extract from the WALGA State Council Agenda Report Background:

In December 2012, the then Department of Planning released State Planning Policy 3.7 Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas (SPP 3.7) and the Guidelines for Planning in Bushfire Prone Area (Guidelines) to direct how land use should address bushfire risk management in Western Australia. It applies to all land which has been designated as bushfire prone as highlighted on the Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas. Since that time the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) has been committed to a staged review of the bushfire planning framework, with updates to the Guidelines proposed on a periodic basis.

In late January 2019, the WAPC and DFES released the updated Element 3 for targeted stakeholder comment, this included a letter sent to all Local Governments. Four workshops were also held, including three in regional areas. The intent of Element 3 is 'to ensure that the vehicular access serving a subdivision/development is available and safe during a bushfire event.'

The State Council agenda item provides further information on the updated policy, highlighting its concerns with the changes. To quote from the "Comment" section of the agenda item:

The Association welcomes the release of the draft Element 3 as it shows the commitment by DPLH and DFES to make continued improvement to the bushfire planning framework, allowing this new area of planning to develop in a robust fashion, with constant engagement of stakeholders. That being said, the Association in its Interim Submission raised significant reservations about the proposed modifications. These reservations were considerable and unable to be addressed through simple adjustments, therefore the Interim Submission recommended that the Association not support the draft Element 3 in its current format.

Of particular concern is the impact of the requirement to consider additional operational requirements of firefighting in the design of new urban areas. This has resulted in a number of changes to preferred road designs in bushfire prone areas that in turn will have considerable impact on the design of local streets. Further, these changes are a significant departure from the current standard within DPLH's Liveable Neighbourhood's policy, being inconsistent with 7 Objectives and 9 requirements of movement network element of this policy.

ZONE COMMENT:

Zone supports the WALGA recommendation

5.5 Remote Area Tax Concessions (05-001-03-0006 DM)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA's interim submission to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Remote Area Tax Concessions be endorsed.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMMENT:

As explained in the WALGA State Council agenda, Treasurer Hon Josh Frydenberg has provided the Productivity Commission with a term of reference to undertake a study into the zone tax offset and related remote area tax concessions and payments.

WALGA has for a number of years called for the review and reform of the zero tax offset. The Association's submission has been prepared on the basis of existing State Council policy positions, the Economic Development project and feedback from individual Local Governments. Members were also provided the opportunity to contribute to the submission.

ZONE COMMENT:

Zone supports the WALGA recommendation

5.6 Directions Paper for the 10 Year Strategy on Homelessness (05-018-02-0007 JB)

WALGA Recommendation

That the interim submission to the Directions Paper for the 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness be endorsed.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMMENT:

The following is an extract from the WALGA State Council Agenda Report:

- *In March 2019, the Department of Communities released a Directions Paper for the 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness: Western Australia 2019-2029*
- *The Association garnered input to an Interim Submission through the normal communication channels and provided this by the deadline of 17 May 2019.*
- *The Association has been represented on the Supporting Communities Forum Homelessness Working Group by senior staff since its inception in mid-2018.*

ZONE COMMENT:

Zone supports the WALGA recommendation

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Central Country Zone endorses all recommendations being matters contained in the WALGA State Council Agenda other than those recommendations separately considered.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Davies** **Seconded: Cr Baker**

That the Central Country Zone endorses all recommendations being matters contained in the WALGA State Council Agenda other than those recommendations separately considered.

CARRIED

7.4 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Noting/Information

- 6.1 Report on Local Government Road Assets and Expenditure 2017/18 (0600-703-0016 MB)**
- 6.2 2019-2020 State and Federal Budgets (05-088-03-0001 NF)**
- 6.3 Public Library Assets (05-012-03-0001 KD)**
- 6.4 Climate Change Policy Advocacy Update (05-028-04-0002 LS)**
- 6.5 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (01-006-03-0008 RNB)**

7.5 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Organisational Reports

7.1 Key Activity Reports

- 7.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Environment and Waste Unit (01-006-03-0017 MJB)**
- 7.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Governance and Organisational Services (01-006-03-0007 TB) (Attachment)**

This report provides a summary report on the State Council and Zone Structure and Process Working Group. The Working Group has been convened by the WALGA President, Cr Lynne Craigie, supported by State Council, to review WALGA's current governance structure and processes. The working group, which is comprised of the President, Deputy President, State Councillors, an Elected Member from WA Regional Cities Alliance, Local Government CEOs and senior WALGA staff, has been charged with developing an alternative model to the existing arrangements, with

corresponding recommendations, for State Council consideration. If State Council considers that the alternative model or models are worthy of further consideration, consultation with WALGA members will be undertaken.

Cr Blight, the Zone's representative to the WALGA State Council, is a member of the working group. He may wish to provide further comment on this aspect of the report.

7.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure (05-001-02-0003 ID)

7.1.4 Report on Key Activities, People and Places (01-006-03-0014 JB)

7.6 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Policy Forum Reports

7.2 Policy Forum Reports

7.2.1 Mayors/Presidents Policy Forum

7.2.2 Mining Community Policy Forum

7.2.3 Container Deposit Legislation Policy Forum

7.2.4 Economic Development Policy Forum

7.7 WALGA President's Report

Presenting the WALGA President's Report

Note: At the time of preparing the meeting agenda the President's Report had not been received. It will be distributed as soon as it becomes available.

The President's Report received and circulated prior to the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Central Country Zone notes the following reports contained in the WALGA State Council Agenda:

- Matters for noting/Information;
- Organisational reports;
- Policy Forum reports; and
- WALGA President's Report.

The meeting noted the recent comments made in relation to the Local Government Insurance Scheme and the negativity this was generating within the media. It was noted that this situation is divisive for the sector but that there is probably little that can be done about it.

RESOLUTION: Moved: Cr McGuinness Seconded: Cr Freebairn

That the Central Country Zone notes the following reports contained in the WALGA State Council Agenda:

- **Matters for noting/Information;**
- **Organisational reports;**
- **Policy Forum reports; and**
- **WALGA President's Report.**

CARRIED

8.0 FINANCE

Nil

9.0 ZONE REPORTS

9.1 Zone President's Report

Cr Mark Conley - No report.

9.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG)

Cr Katrina Crute

No report requested

Mr Robert Dew advised that the next meeting of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group was to be held 4 July 2019 and would be considering the draft Revitalising Agricultural Region Freight Strategy recently released for comment by the State Government. He asked that any comments on the Strategy be provided to the Group.

Mr Graeme Fardon asked as to the role of the Group with regard to the Strategy and whether the Wheatbelt Secondary Road Freight Network was taken into consideration in the Strategy. Mr Robert Dew replied that the Group provided feedback to the WA Local Government Association on a region basis as distinct from individual local governments and lobby to Government. Mr Mark Bondiotti replied that the Federal Government's funding commitment to the Wheatbelt Secondary Road Freight network has been confirmed; still waiting for confirmation from the State Government on its funding; local government funds will probably be needed for the project.

Executive Note: The Wheatbelt Secondary Road Freight Network is included in the draft Revitalising Agricultural Region Freight Strategy as part of the region-specific infrastructure upgrades (see appendices 3, 4 and 5 of the Strategy).

9.3 Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)

President Leigh Ballard

No report requested

9.4 Wheatbelt South Regional Road Group

Cr Katrina Crute, Chair of Wheatbelt South Regional Road Group

No report requested

10.0 ZONE BUSINESS - MEMBER COUNCIL MATTERS

Nil

11.0 ZONE BUSINESS - OTHER BUSINESS/URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

12.0 ZONE BUSINESS - EMERGING ISSUES

(The intent of the item is to enable Member Councils to bring to the attention of the delegates a matter that is developing. It is proposed that the matter will be tabled for discussion but not decision and then enable Member Councils to take the information away and consider an outcome for possible consideration at the next Zone meeting.)

Nil

13.0 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Nil

14.0 OTHER REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

14.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Nil

14.2 Wheatbelt Development Commission

Nil

14.3 Regional Development Australia (RDA) Wheatbelt

Nil

15.0 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Central Country Zone Executive Committee – Meeting date still to be confirmed

Friday 31 August 2018 – Venue still to be determined

The meeting noted correction that the next meeting will be held Friday 30 August 2019. Meeting to be held in Beverley.

16.0 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8:57 am.

DECLARATION

These minutes were confirmed by the Central Country Zone at the meeting held on 30 August 2019

Signed _____
Person presiding at the meeting at which these minutes were confirmed