

## MINUTES OF THE ZONE MEETING

held at the Wongan Hills Sports & Recreation Centre, Ninan Street, Wongan Hills  
Friday 23 April 2021 commencing at 10:00 am

### 1 OPENING & WELCOME

The Zone President and Chair of the meeting, Cr Ken Seymour, welcomed delegates and observers and introduced Cr Stuart Boekeman, Shire of Wongan-Ballidu. Cr Boekeman welcomed delegates to Wongan Hills and commented on –

- He has been a Councillor for 4 years.
- Council has seven members however currently operating with six members as the Shire President, Jon Hasson, has recently stepped down. A new President will be elected at the forthcoming Council meeting.
- Mocardy Dam project – 8.7 km pipeline; storage tanks (2 x 220 kL at airport, 3 x 375 kL at District High School).
- State Category winner 2020 Tidy Towns for Environmental Sustainability.
- Community and sports colocation project – Phase 1 completed on time and within 1.2% of budget (\$4.6m mostly self-funded). Comprised relocation of tennis, squash and fitness gym to the existing sports pavilion, joining hockey, netball, football, basketball and cricket and Interior and exterior renovations and improvements. Phase 2 upgrading bowls and relocating bowls facility yet to be commenced.
- Pathways to 2031 engagement process commenced in February 2021 to review the Shire's 10 year Strategic Community Plan.

Cr C Ross entered the meeting at 10:24 pm.

### 2 ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

#### 2.1 Attendance

Delegates -

Cr Kylie Hughes	Shire of Chittering
Cr Jan Court	Shire of Gingin (Deputy President)
Cr Barry Haywood	Shire of Goomalling
Cr Ken Seymour	Shire of Moora (President)
Cr Chris Antonio	Shire of Northam
Cr Rosemary Madacsi	Shire of Toodyay
Cr Pauline Bantock	Shire of Victoria Plains
Cr Stuart Boekeman	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
Cr Denise Smythe	Shire of York (via Video)

Observers –

Cr Carmel Ross	Shire of Chittering (from 10:24 pm)
Mr Matthew Gilfellow	Shire of Chittering
Mr Aaron Cook	Shire of Gingin
Cr Julie Williams	Shire of Northam
Cr Beth Ruthven	Shire of Toodyay
Cr Susan Pearce	Shire of Toodyay
Mr Chris Linnell	Shire of York (via Video)
Mr Richard Burnell	Department of Fire & Emergency Services (from 11:30 am)
Mr Craig Manton	Regional Manager Wheatbelt, Main Roads WA
Mr Zac Donovan	Executive Manager Commercial and Communications, WALGA
Ms Joanne Burges	Intergovernmental Relations and Risk Senior Advisor, WALGA
Mr Cliff Simpson	RoadWise (Wheatbelt North)
Robert Dew	Zone Executive Officer

## 2.2 **Apologies**

Mr Peter Bentley	Shire of Goomalling
Cr Tracy Lefroy	Shire of Moora
Mr Jason Whiteaker	Shire of Northam
Ms Suzie Hazlehurst	Shire of Toodyay
Ms Glenda Teede	Shire of Victoria Plains
Mr Stuart Taylor	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
Ms Jenifer Collins	Regional Manager Wheatbelt, Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries
Mr Rob Cossart	Wheatbelt Development Commission
Ms Mandy Walker	Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt
Hon Mia Davies MLA	Member Central Wheatbelt
Hon Colin de Grussa MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Darren West MLC	Member for Agricultural Region

## 3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 4 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The President announced that Mr Richard Burnell, Department of Fire and Emergency Services would be attending the meeting and would give a presentation on telecommunications resilience improvement.

## 5 **MINUTES**

### 5.1 **Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes of the Zone Meeting held 19 February 2021 at Moora. Copies of these Minutes have been circulated to all member Councils.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held on 19 February 2021, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –**

**That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held on 19 February 2021, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.** **CARRIED**

### 5.2 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

#### (a) **Zone Meeting Format** (Item 5.2(b))

Enquiries into the suitability and costs of audio/visual equipment which will meet the Zone's requirements for hybrid meetings is ongoing.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

For noting

**NOTED**

#### (b) **Other**

No other matters were brought forward.

## 6 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

### 6.1 WALGA State Council Agenda

Review of the Agenda for the State Council meeting to be held Wednesday 5 May 2021. The Zone is able to provide comment or submit alternate recommendations to State Council for consideration.

#### Matters for Decision

##### 5.1 Local Government Financial Ratios (Page 5)

WALGA Recommendation

*That WALGA:*

1. *Advocate to the Minister for Local Government to amend the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 to prescribe the following ratios:
  - a. *Operating Surplus Ratio,*
  - b. *Net Financial Liabilities Ratio,*
  - c. *Debt Service Coverage Ratio, and*
  - d. *Current Ratio.**
2. *Recommend that Local Governments consider including Asset Management ratios in their Annual Report.*
3. *Request the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries to review the Asset Management ratios in consultation with the Local Government sector.*
4. *Continue the Local Government Financial Ratios Working Group as a reference group for the development of a Model set of Financial Statements and Budget Statements, and to establish new financial indicators.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- Over a number of years there has been mounting concern as to the appropriateness of the seven financial ratios which are prescribed for inclusion in Local Government annual financial reports.
- WALGA has formed a Sector Reference Group and Working Group to review the ratios and provide recommendations. The composition of the Groups included sector representatives together with officers from the Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries, Office of the Auditor General and WA Treasury Corporation.
- The Working Group has provided a Local Government Financial Ratios Report with recommendations for the prescribed ratios and other related matters.

**The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.**

##### 5.2 Roads Asset Preservation Model Review (Page 8)

WALGA Recommendation

*That WALGA:*

1. *Seek support from the WA Local Government Grants Commission to provide presentations on the inputs, operation of and outputs of the Road Asset Preservation Model at Zone or Regional Road Group meetings where requested.*
2. *Advocate to the WA Local Government Grants Commission to improve the formatting and labelling of the model and make it available via the Commission's website.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Local Government Grants Commission's Roads Asset Preservation Model is used to allocate road funding from State and Federal Government grants among Local Governments in Western Australia. WALGA has explored the need for and risks of advocating for a review of this model.
- Investigations to date highlight that the model is comprehensive, robust and been generally accepted by Local Governments, the Grants Commission and the State Government for more than 25 years, with few substantial changes. However, the model is complicated and not fully documented. Its operations are difficult to understand, resulting in a lack of transparency as to the model's operations.
- To help stakeholders understand the model, WALGA has prepared a manual explaining the principles and operation of the model.

- Local Governments and Zones expressed preferences ranging from retaining the status quo, through providing additional information to facilitate more informed decision-making, to seeking advocacy for a full review of the Road Asset Preservation Model when the matter was considered during February 2021.
- Improving the level of understanding of the model and potential implications of alternative approaches will assist future decision-making regarding the desired advocacy position.

**The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.**

### 5.3 Western Australian Development Index (Page 10)

#### WALGA Recommendation

*That the development and implementation of the Western Australian Development Index, led by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, be supported.*

#### WALGA Executive Summary

- Governments at all levels in a number of jurisdictions are leveraging broad wellbeing data, beyond traditional metrics, to measure community and citizen wellbeing over time.
- To research this issue, and the relevance of wellbeing indices to Local Government, WALGA hosted a research intern whose final report is available here.
- In addition, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) has been working with the Australian National Development Index (ANDI) to progress discussions on the development of a Western Australian Development Index (WADI), which would measure community wellbeing across a broad range of domains in Western Australia.
- Access to objective wellbeing data would provide Local Governments with opportunities to guide policy and budgetary decisions, and to advocate to other spheres of government for policy, program or infrastructure interventions.
- Importantly, the proposed WADI is not intended to be a tool for comparing Local Government performance, rather it is intended to aid decision making, policy interventions and advocacy to other spheres of government.
- The DLGSC is seeking non-financial support (in the form of a State Council resolution) from WALGA to seek State Government funding for the development of WADI.

**The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.**

### 5.4 Review of the State Industrial Relations System (Page 12)

#### WALGA Recommendation

*That WALGA:*

1. *Seek confirmation from the State Government on whether it intends to re-introduce legislation for Local Governments to operate solely in the State Industrial Relations System.*
2. *If the State Government reintroduces legislation to require all Local Governments to operate within the State Industrial Relations System, continue to advocate for the State Government to:*
  - a) *Amend the Industrial Relations Act 1979 (WA) to include additional provisions to modernise the State IR system; and*
  - b) *Provide adequate funding and resourcing to ensure Local Governments are equipped with the appropriate tools and training to enable a smooth transition.*

#### WALGA Executive Summary

- Currently in Western Australia there is a dual system whereby Local Governments apply either the Federal or State Industrial Relations legislation.
- The State Government is seeking to have all Local Governments operate in the State Industrial Relations System based on recommendations made in a Ministerial Report (2017-19).
- The *Industrial Relations Legislation Amendment Bill 2020* (Bill) was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 20 August 2020 but failed to pass the Legislative Council before Parliament was prorogued on 7 December 2020.
- With the recent election results, the WA Labor Government has control of both houses of State Parliament. Therefore, if a new Bill is introduced in similar terms it is unlikely to meet any opposition in Parliament.

- The transition of Local Government employees from the Federal to State Industrial Relations system will affect approximately 23,000 employees and will require Local Government employers and employees to navigate complex transitional legislation and arrangements.
- If legislation to mandate the transition is reintroduced into Parliament, it will be critical for Local Governments to secure State Government funding, resourcing and assistance to ensure the transition is smooth and positive for Local Government employees.

**The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.**

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the above recommendations and comments be endorsed.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –**

**That the above recommendations and comments be endorsed.**

**CARRIED**

**Matters for Noting/information**

- 6.1 New Regulations Update – Model Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates; and CEO Standards for Recruitment, Performance Review and Termination (Page 16)

WALGA Recommendation

*That the information update on the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 2021 and Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021 be noted.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- In December 2020, State Council adopted advocacy positions in relation to the *CEO Recruitment and Selection, Performance Review and Termination Standards Regulations* (Res:146.6/2020 – p.55) and the *Model Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates Regulations* (Res: 147.6/2020 – p.61);
- In January 2021 State Council endorsed a submission on the Draft *Local Government Regulations Amendment (Employee Code of Conduct) Regulations 2020* (Res: 194.FM/2021)
- Three new regulations, relating to the above matters were Gazetted and commenced on 3 February 2021;
- WALGA's request for an implementation period in relation to the Council Member Code of Conduct and CEO Standards was unsuccessful.
- WALGA is providing support and assistance to the sector through guidelines, framework for a Complaints process for the Elected Member Model Code of Conduct and developing a Model Employee Code of Conduct.

- 6.2 State Election Campaign (Page 19)

WALGA Recommendation

*That the update on the 2021 State Election Campaign be noted.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- WALGA ran a coordinated State Election Campaign that included
  1. Direct engagement with Members of Parliament, candidates for election, and political parties,
  2. Production of a campaign brochure and website, and
  3. A social media and electronic display ads campaign.
- The campaign generated engagement with Members of Parliament and candidates across the political spectrum, and the returned Labor Government made a number of commitments aligned with WALGA's policy agenda.

6.3 Draft Position Statement: Dark Sky and Astrotourism (Page 21)

WALGA Recommendation

*That the endorsed submission on the draft Position Statement: Dark sky and astrotourism, be noted.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Western Australian Planning Commission has released the draft *Position Statement: Dark sky and astrotourism* for public comment. Submissions close on 26 March 2021.
- The position statement outlines a set of planning mechanisms that can be used by planning authorities to preserve dark sky locations for the purposes of supporting astrotourism activities.
- The People and Place Policy Team discussed WALGA's draft submission on 17 March 2021 and recommended that it be considered and endorsed by State Council through Flying Minute.

6.4 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (Page 23)

WALGA Recommendation

*That State Council note the resolutions of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council at its 24 meeting.*

WALGA Executive Summary

This item summaries the outcomes of the MWAC meeting held on 24 February 2021.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the above matters for noting/information be noted.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr R Madacsi seconded –  
That the above matters for noting/information be noted.**

**CARRIED**

**Organisational Reports**

7.1 Key Activity Reports

- 7.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Commercial and Communications (Page 25)
- 7.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Governance and Organisational Services (Page 27)
- 7.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure (Page 29)
- 7.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Strategy, Policy and Planning (Page 31)

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the above organisational reports be noted.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr B Haywood moved and Cr R Madacsi seconded –  
That the above organisational reports be noted.**

**CARRIED**

**6.2 WALGA President's Report**

Presentation of the WALGA President's Report (attached to Agenda).

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the WALGA President's Report be received.

Mr Z Donovan presented the WALGA President's report.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr B Haywood moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –  
That the WALGA President's Report be received.**

**CARRIED**

### **6.3 State Councillor's Report**

Report by Cr Ken Seymour.

Cr K Seymour reported –

Once again, the rural regions seem to be bearing the brunt of the weather gods. Summer bushfires in the Hills regions, then heavy summer rainfall events throughout the Wheatbelt have taken a toll on us all. Then tropical cyclone Seroja has impacted a large area of the Midwest and the Wheatbelt. Once again local governments have risen to the occasion and has been tested to the limit during these extreme weather events.

Our weakest link at times during these events seems to be a reliable backup power source at our mobile phone towers in the rural regions. With an ever-increasing reliance of our mobile towers to the whole community, we need to find a solution that enables these sites to have a constant power source. Backup diesel generators with a simple changeover switch technology has proven its worth over many years. Local governments need to take the lead in highlighting this issue to the relevant authorities and may need to form partnerships with telecommunication companies to rectify this shortfall that occurs all too often. Since the recent cyclone, there may have been a shift in the attitude of this need by our service providers. I look forward to discussing these issues further at today's Zone meeting.

With good subsoil moisture across much of the Agricultural region, many are quietly confident of an above average production year for the Ag sector.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the State Councillor's Reports be received.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr R Madacsi moved and Cr C Antonio seconded –  
That the State Councillor's Report be received.**

**CARRIED**

### **6.4 Zone Status Report**

Report by WA Local Government Association on status of Zone resolutions for action by the Association – April 2021 (attached to Agenda).

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the April 2021 Status Report be received.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr R Madacsi moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –  
That the April 2021 Status Report be received.**

**CARRIED**

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 11:09 am.

**RESUMPTION:** The meeting resumed at 11:38 am. All those present at the time of adjournment were present on resumption.

## **7 ZONE REPORTS**

### **7.1 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group**

No meeting of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group has been held since the last Zone meeting. The next meeting of the Group is scheduled for Friday 9 July.

The Group's Chair has requested that the July meeting include discussion on the future activities of the Group with particular reference to the direction taken by the new State Government with regards to agricultural freight. The Zone may care to consider the Group Chair's request for any direction to the Zone's delegate to the Group.

The Zone's delegate, Cr B Haywood, commented that at present there is not a lot on the Group's agenda and as such consideration is being given to the Group going into recess for a period.

Cr P Bantock commented that the Shire of Victoria Plains has completed a pilot project on the Mogumber-Yarawindah Road as part of the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Route.

## **7.2 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee**

Report by Zone Delegate Cr C Antonio on activities of the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Report on the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee be received.

Cr C Antonio commented on –

- When he was appointed as the Zone's delegate to the Committee it met four times per year. Since Covid-19 the Committee has met 52 times.
- Over 50 year olds are on the priority list for the AstraZeneca vaccine.
- Tropical cyclone Seroja did not affect this area but it was interesting sitting in on emergency management meetings for affected local governments. Believe that power and telecommunications have been restored as best they can. Congratulations to LGIS on their commitment to the affected areas.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr B Haywood moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –**

**That the Report on the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee be received.**

**CARRIED**

## **8 AGENCY REPORTS**

### **8.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries**

- (a) Presentation of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries report (attached to Agenda).
- (b) Consideration of any topics or presentations the Zone would like the Department to give to the next Zone meeting.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Report be received.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr S Boekeman seconded –**

**That the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Report be received.**

**CARRIED**

### **8.2 RDA Wheatbelt**

Presentation of report from RDA Wheatbelt (attached to Agenda).

While Ms Mandy Walker is unable to attend this meeting, she has drawn attention to a number of requests in her report for feedback from Zone members –

- Wander the Wheatbelt - Seeking a collective of Western Wheatbelt Local Governments to work with RDAW to challenge the current RTO arrangement in the Wheatbelt. Assistance by providing a letter of support and advice if prepared to be more involved by contributing funds or resources to the Wheatbelt online platform.
- Community Finder - Encourage all Wheatbelt Local Governments to create a profile page for their communities to gain national exposure of the opportunities your towns can offer.
- GrantGuru – Distribution of free portal details and opportunity for local governments to join.
- RDAW Committee Positions – Expressions of Interest to join being invited. Request for details of who would be an influential and positive contributor to the Committee



She has advised that she is happy to contribute or take questions by phone on meeting day if the logistics allow.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the RDA Wheatbelt Report be received.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –  
That the RDA Wheatbelt Report be received.**

**CARRIED**

**8.3 Transport Portfolio (Main Roads, Department of Transport, Public Transport Authority)**

Presentation of the Transport Portfolio report.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Transport Portfolio report be received.**

Mr C Manton tabled written report and commented on –

- Stimulus funding:
  - Contractors have all been engaged.
  - Focus is on use it or lose it funding from the Federal government by 30 June.
  - Resource availability an issue, particular for traffic management.
  - Visual aspect of culverts in shoulder widening works is that they are at the edge of the seal. Markers are being put in. Nature of the funding is that there has been no time to extend the culverts as part of the current works; will be done in time. Focus of the funding is on widening the shoulders and sealing them.
- Toodyay Road - Main Roads is working with a resident's working group on planned works. Plans were finalised, however some on the group decided that they didn't like the plan and formed an action group. Main Roads has offered to meet with the action group but the offer was declined.
- Roadside signage review – An independent review is being undertaken on the use of temporary roadworks signage on the regional road network. Google type camera car being used to drive through works. A community information session is being held in Northam on 3 June 2021.

Cr K Seymour referred to Toll trucks carting nitro prill explosive to mine sites. He understood that these trucks have been derated to 500 hp and speed limited to 90 km/h and was aware that other heavy vehicles were trying to pass the Toll trucks due to the 10 km/h speed differential. He enquired as to the road safety aspects. Mr Manton replied that Heavy Vehicle Services had no mechanisms around minimum speeds but believed the Police can be involved for travel at slow speeds.

Cr C Simpson referred to truck rollovers on Great Eastern Highway and improvement works required. Mr Manton replied that Police provide information on crashes on Great Eastern Highway and that additional funds have been provided for works at Coates Gully and Metro Region has projects to improve the curves at El Caballo and The Lakes. He commented that East Link (Orange Route) planning review had commenced – 15% design and review of concept; will take three years; landowners have been asked for access to enable surveys to validate alignments.

Cr R Madacsi asked why Chitty Road could not be used to divert heavy traffic to Great Eastern Highway rather than the current roads. Mr Manton replied that the effected local governments will need to submit a proposal to add Chitty Road to the RAV network, that removing roads from the RAV network was difficult and that if Chitty Road approved it would be up to road users to choose their preferred route.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr R Madacsi moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –  
That the Transport Portfolio report be received.**

**CARRIED**

**8.4 RoadWise (Wheatbelt North)**

Presentation of report from RoadWise (Wheatbelt North).

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the RoadWise (Wheatbelt North) Report be received.

Mr C Simpson table written report and commented on –

- Road safety strategy for Western Australia 2020-2030.
- Fatalities on WA roads – 33 regional; 1 Wheatbelt North.
- Road safety performance reports.
- Road safety grant to the Shire of Toodyay to allow six technical officers from Toodyay, Northam and York to undertake two road safety courses and the Toodyay RoadWise Committee to conduct a road safety forum.

Cr J Court thanked Mr Simpson for attending the Shire of Gingin's recent Youth Week Road Show. She encouraged local governments to get in touch with Mr Simpson regarding RoadWise participation when planning community events.

Cr B Haywood referred to a recent television advert showing a fatigued driver running off the road. He commented that obtaining permits to clear roadside vegetation was a significant issue for local government and highlighted the needed for support to change the current system around permits for roadworks. Mr Simpson replied that best practice for road safety was to have clear roadsides, however environmental approvals were in the way of achieving this. He would take the comments back to the WA Local Government Association. Ms J Burges pointed out that a motion from the Zone to State Council would highlight concerns and put the matter onto an action list.

Cr C Antonio referred to the fatality statistics and that drug driving was increasing while drunk driving was going down. He enquired as to what were the drug driving penalties. Ms J Burges replied that the penalties for drug and drunk driving are about the same.

Cr D Smythe and Mr C Linnell left the meeting at 12:17 pm.

Mr C Manton commented that roadside drug tests were indicative only and were a challenge for Police as they have to take the person for a full test and this takes time.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –  
That the RoadWise (Wheatbelt North) Report be received.**

**CARRIED**

#### **8.5 Other**

There were no other reports.

<b>9 FINANCE</b>
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#### **9.1 Financial Reports**

Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Report for the period ending 31 March 2021 are attached to the agenda.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the financial reports for the period ending 31 March 2021, as attached, be received.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –  
That the financial reports for the period ending 31 March 2021, as attached, be received.**

**CARRIED**

## 9.2 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts are submitted for payment -

<u>Payee</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Amount</u>
R W & S Dew	Secretarial Services to Zone – June 2021 Quarter	3,684.25
	TOTAL (no GST)	<u><u>\$3,684.25</u></u>

### RECOMMENDATION

That the accounts as listed totalling \$3,684.25 be approved for payment.

### RESOLUTION

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –**

**That the accounts as listed totalling \$3,684.25 be approved for payment.**

**CARRIED**

## 10 ZONE BUSINESS

### 10.1 Emergency Generator Backup for Telstra Towers

The Zone President has request discussion on an approach to Telstra regarding the provision and maintenance of emergency generator backup for Telstra towers.

### RECOMMENDATION

For discussion.

Mr R Burnell, Executive Director, Corporate Services Command, Department of Fire and Emergency Services, gave a presentation on improvements to telecommunications resilience.

Cr B Haywood asked if telecommunication providers in regional areas could use the one system rather than each provider have their own installations. Mr Burnell replied that the technology was available and it was possible, cost was a factor, he would be taking this issue to the Telecommunications Working Group.

Cr K Seymour asked who owns the telecommunication towers. Mr Burnell replied that it varied, some were owned by local governments but the majority were owned by the telecommunication providers – government provided the funding and the telecommunication providers built the towers.

Ms J Burges commented on the limited funding available and asked how sites were identified to give the best 'bang for the buck'. Mr Burnell replied that at present it was the priorities of the telecommunication providers but local governments frequently have different priorities and bushfire, cyclone risk and power outages can also drive priorities. He commented that the draft position of the Telecommunications Working Group setting out priorities is to go to local government for feedback.

Cr K Seymour asked what can the Zone or local governments do to facilitate telecommunication resilience improvement going forward. Mr Burnell replied keep doing what local government has been doing to highlight the issue. The recent crisis's have elevated the need for improvements.

### RESOLUTION

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –**

**That the Avon-Midland Zone recommends to State Council that the WA Local Government Association approach the State and Federal Governments, through both normal channels and a facilitated round table, to improve telecommunications both generally and during crises.**

**CARRIED**

**11 URGENT BUSINESS (as permitted by the Presiding Member)**

**11.1 Road Verge Clearing**

Brought forward from item 8.4.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr B Haywood moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –**

**That the Avon-Midland Zone recommends to State Council that a delegation be made to the State Government to ensure the process for roads verge clearing by local governments is subject to less red tape.**

**CARRIED**

**12 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

No matters were brought forward.

**13 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

Future meetings of the Zone are scheduled for –

25 June 2021	Shire of Goomalling
20 August 2021	Shire of Gingin
19 November 2021	Shire of Toodyay

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the next ordinary meeting of the Zone be held Friday 25 June 2021 and be hosted by the Shire of Goomalling.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr R Madacsi seconded –**

**That the next ordinary meeting of the Zone be held Friday 25 June 2021 and be hosted by the Shire of Goomalling.**

**CARRIED**

**14 CLOSURE**

There being no further business the President thanked attendees, the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu for hosting the meeting, and declared the meeting closed at 12:57 pm.

**CERTIFICATION**

These Minutes were confirmed by the meeting held on .....

Signed: .....  
(Chairman of meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed)