



CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE

Minutes

**Friday 1 May 2020
via
Teleconference**

Commencing at 8.37am

Table of Contents

1.0	OPENING AND WELCOME	2
2.0	ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES.....	2
3.0	DECLARATION OF INTEREST	3
4.0	ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	3
5.0	GUEST SPEAKERS.....	3
6.0	MINUTES.....	5
6.1	Confirmation of Minutes – Friday 21 February 2020 (Attachment)	5
6.2	Business Arising from Minutes Zone Meeting Friday 21 February 2020	5
7.0	WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WALGA) BUSINESS.....	7
7.1	State Councillor Report	7
7.2	WALGA Status Report (Attachment).....	9
7.3	Emerging Issues (Agenda Item 4 of the WALGA State Council Agenda).....	9
7.4	Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Decision	12
7.5	Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Noting/Information.....	14
7.6	Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Organisational Reports.....	14
7.7	Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Policy Forum Reports	15
7.8	WALGA President’s Report (Attachment)	15
8.0	FINANCE.....	16
9.0	ZONE REPORTS.....	16
9.1	Zone President’s Report.....	16
9.2	Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG)	16
9.2.1	Minutes of Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Meeting Friday 3 April 2020 (Attachment)	16
9.2.2	Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Delegate’s Report.....	16
9.2.3	Movement of Agricultural Machinery – Request for Feedback (Attachment)	16
9.3	Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC).....	17
10.0	ZONE BUSINESS - MEMBER COUNCIL MATTERS.....	18
10.1	Matters for Noting	18
10.2	COVID-19 Regional Level Vulnerability Analysis (Attachment).....	19
11.0	ZONE BUSINESS - OTHER BUSINESS/URGENT BUSINESS	20
12.0	ZONE BUSINESS - EMERGING ISSUES	20
13.0	MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT	20
14.0	OTHER REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS.....	20
14.1	Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (Attachments).....	20
14.2	Wheatbelt Development Commission.....	20
14.3	Regional Development Australia (RDA) Wheatbelt.....	20
14.4	Main Roads WA.....	20
15.0	DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING	20
16.0	CLOSURE	21

Minutes

Central Country Zone of WALGA

Friday 1 May 2020, commencing at 8.37am
via Teleconference

1.0 OPENING AND WELCOME

Cr McGuinness opened the meeting at 8.37am.

He welcomed all in attendance and reminded delegates of the teleconference meeting protocols, which had been provided by email ahead of this morning's meeting.

2.0 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance

Cr Brett McGuinness (Chair)

Cr Don Davis

Cr Chris Pepper

Mr Stephen Gollan

Cr Katrina Crute (from 8.42am)

Cr Neil Walker (from 8.42am)

Mr Ian D'Arcy (from 8.42am)

Cr Des Hickey

Ms Natalie Manton

Cr Mark Conley

Cr Eliza Dowling (from 8.50am)

Mr Gary Sherry

Cr Julie Ramm

Mr Peter Crispin

Cr Barry West

Mr Garrick Yandle

President Leigh Ballard

Mr Dale Stewart

Cr Bill Mulrone

Cr Jackie McBurney

Ms Julie Burton

Mr Graeme Fardon

Cr Phillip Blight (from 8.50am)

Cr Greg Ball

Mr Bill Atkinson

Ms Belinda Knight

Cr Kevin King

Ms Nicole Wasmann

Cr Julie Russell

Cr John Mearns

Cr Sarah Hyde

Cr Moya Carne

Mr Geoff McKeown

Councillor, Shire of Quairading
President, Shire of Beverley
Deputy President, Shire of Beverley
CEO, Shire of Beverley
President, Shire of Brookton
Deputy President, Shire of Brookton
CEO, Shire of Brookton
President, Shire of Corrigin
CEO, Shire of Corrigin
President, Shire of Cuballing
Deputy President, Shire of Cuballing
CEO, Shire of Cuballing
President, Shire of Dumbleyung
CEO, Shire of Dumbleyung
President, Shire of Kulin
CEO, Shire of Kulin
President, Shire of Narrogin
CEO, Shire of Narrogin
President, Shire of Pingelly
Deputy President, Shire of Pingelly
CEO, Shire of Pingelly
CEO, Shire of Quairading
President, Shire of Wagin
Deputy President, Shire of Wagin
A/CEO, Shire of Wagin
CEO Shire of Wandering
President, Shire of West Arthur
CEO, Shire of West Arthur
President, Shire of Wickepin
Councillor, Shire of Wickepin
Councillor, Shire of Wickepin
Councillor, Shire of Williams
CEO, Shire of Williams

Mr Bruce Wittber, Joint Executive Officer

Ms Helen Westcott, Joint Executive Officer

WALGA Representatives

Mr Zac Donovan, Executive Manager Finance and Marketing
Ms Marissa McDonald, Senior Policy Advisor Community

Guests

Ms Julie Knight, Manager Local Government Executive Support, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
Mr Gordon MacMile Director Strategic Coordination and Delivery, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
Ms Yvette Peterson A/Director Local Government Policy and Engagement, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Apologies

Cr Michael Weguelin, Deputy President Shire of Corrigin
Cr Marilyn Hasleby, Councillor Shire of Dumbleyung
Cr Grant Robins, Deputy President Shire of Kulin
Cr Tim Weise, Deputy President Shire of Narrogin
Cr Wayne Davies, President Shire of Quairading
Cr Jo Haythornthwaite, Deputy President Shire of Quairading
Cr Julie McFall, Councillor Shire of West Arthur
Cr Jarrad Logie, President Shire of Williams

3.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

4.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Zone President provided the following comment on the cancellation of the in-person Zone meeting on Friday 22 May 2020.

WALGA announced in its LG News 20 March that in view of the Prime Minister's statement on Wednesday, 18 March that measures to combat COVID-19 should be expected to be ongoing for at least six months the decision has been made to cancel the WALGA annual Local Government Convention and Exhibition, scheduled for August.

As a result I asked for the Executive Officer to seek the opinion of Member Councils as to whether the Zone should cancel any in-person meetings until at least the in-person Zone Meeting due on Friday 28 August 2020.

Initially this affected the meeting scheduled to be held in Kulin on 22 May.

With issues moving quickly including restrictions around meetings and "gatherings" generally it was somewhat inevitable that the in-person Zone Meeting scheduled for Friday 22 May 2020 in Kulin should be cancelled.

Consequently I made the decision to cancel the Zone Meeting and asked the Executive Officer to advise Member Councils of this decision.

5.0 GUEST SPEAKERS

At this point in the meeting the Zone President invited the representatives from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries to make their presentations.

Ms Julie Knight, Manager Local Government Executive Support provided an update to the Zone on the Local Government Act Amendment Bill and Regulations.

Julie Knight noted that as the report provided ahead of the meeting detailed the proposed changes to the Local Government Act and Regulations she would not go through the report but simply highlight the major points, including that:

- The amendments to the Act will allow the Minister to issue an order that will suspend or modify a provision of the Act. It will also allow a local government by absolute majority to suspend a local law or part of a local law.
Both powers will only be allowed while the State of Emergency declaration is in place and it must be to deal with the consequences of the pandemic.
- Council meetings can be held electronically via teleconference, video conference or other electronic means during a State of Emergency or Public Health Emergency.
- The threshold for when a local government must invite public tenders is increased to \$250,000 to align with State Government tendering thresholds. A sunset clause has not been inserted.

Any questions on the proposed changes should be sent using the email address lgresponse@dlqsc.wa.gov.au.

Mr Gordon MacMile Director Strategic Coordination and Delivery provided an update to the Zone on the Redress Scheme.

Gordon MacMile provided an update on the information provided to Zone delegates on the Redress Scheme at the Zone's February meeting. Information to note included:

- Local Governments need to make a decision on whether they were going to participate with the State Government in the Redress Scheme. A letter had been sent to all Councils on 17 April 2020.
- A number of attachments accompanied the letter, including a template response, with the Department hoping that all Councils would take the matter to the May round of meetings for consideration. The Department must have a local government's response by 31 May 2020.
- There will be no extension to the deadline set by the Commonwealth.
- A second attachment with the correspondence from the Department was a spreadsheet that captured details of information for use in the redress scheme. Only information on facilities that were under a Council's direct control would be included.

8.42am Cr Katrina Crute, Cr Neil Walker and Mr Ian D'Arcy Shire of Brookton joined the meeting

6.0 MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes – Friday 21 February 2020 (Attachment)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Country Zone held on Friday 21 February 2020 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Country Zone held on Friday 21 February 2020 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

6.2 Business Arising from Minutes Zone Meeting Friday 21 February 2020

10.1 Matters for Noting

RESOLUTION: *Moved: Cr Conley* *Seconded: Cr Hopper*

That the Central Country Zone request the State Councillor, Cr Blight to raise the issue of the criteria for the funding allocation, under the Drought Communities Programme as an emerging issue at the WALGA State Council Meeting on Wednesday 4 March 2020.

CARRIED

Executive Officer Comment:

It is noted that WALGA State Council at its meeting on 4 March 2020 endorsed a recommendation from the Great Eastern Country Zone that reads as follows:

That State Council endorse the recommendation from the Great Eastern Country Zone relating to the Federal Government Drought Communities Program.

- *That the Great Eastern Country Zone requests WALGA, in consultation with ALGA, to liaise with the WA State Government Ministers for Water, Agriculture and Environment to provide a coordinated holistic response in respect to the ongoing drying climate issues and access to the Drought Communities Funding Program.*

RESOLUTION 36.1/2020 CARRIED

Cr Blight has noted this State Council resolution in his State Council Report.

It would be appreciated if the WALGA representatives could provide the meeting with an update on the State Council resolution.

Member Councils should also refer to Agenda Item 7.2 (WALGA Status Report).

The WALGA representatives had no further comment to make on this matter.

10.3 Wheatbelt Regional Health Services (Wheatbelt Health MOU)

RESOLUTION: *Moved: Cr West* *Seconded: Cr Mulrone*

That:

1. *The Central Country Zone agree to be involved in the Wheatbelt Health Working Party considering the re-establishment of a Wheatbelt Health "MOU" Group with the work of the Wheatbelt Health Working Party being to progress the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with Local Governments in the Wheatbelt region and the WA Country Health Service;*
2. *Cr Phillip Blight be the Zone delegate on the Wheatbelt Health Working Party; and*
3. *The Memorandum of Understanding and Terms of Reference for the Wheatbelt Health "MOU" once developed be submitted to the Central Country Zone for endorsement.*

CARRIED

Executive Officer Comment:

It would be appreciated if the WALGA representatives could provide an update on the progress of the development of the Wheatbelt Health Working Party.

Meeting Comment:

Ms Marissa McDonald, Senior Policy Advisor Community (WALGA) advised that a meeting was originally arranged for early April but was cancelled due to COVID-19 and a new meeting date would be set shortly.

12.1 Tendering for Medical/GP Services - Shire of Corrigin

RESOLUTION: Moved: Ms Manton Secoded: Cr Mulronev

That WALGA be requested to investigate tendering issues around medical/GP services with consideration given to seeking an exemption under the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996.

CARRIED

Executive Officer Comment:

It would be appreciated if the WALGA representatives could provide an update on the progress of the investigations around this matter.

Member Councils should also refer to Agenda Item 7.2 (WALGA Status Report).

Meeting Comment:

Ms Natalie Manton, CEO Shire of Corrigin, advised that Ms Lyn Baker from Corrigin had spoken to the Chair of Rural Health West who indicated he would raise the issue with Nick Sloan CEO WALGA.

8.50am Cr Eliza Dowling joined the meeting

8.50am Cr Phillip Blight joined the meeting

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

Cr Phillip Blight

Central Country Zone State Councillor Report WALGA State Council Meeting March 2020

Cr Phillip Blight

The following comments/notes are provided on the WALGA State Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4 March 2020

Most Delegates would be aware by now:

- Mayor Tracey Roberts was elected WALGA President for a two year term concluding at the first ordinary meeting of State Council in 2022; and
- President Cr Karen Chappel was elected WALGA Deputy President for a two year term concluding at the first ordinary meeting of State Council in 2022.

4. EMERGING ISSUES

4.1 Stop Puppy Farming Legislation

Moved: President Cr Phillip Blight

Seconded: President Cr Stephen Strange

That WALGA write to the Minister and request that he withdraw the bill and more appropriately consult with the sector and community, or failing that, that he remove any reference to Local Government in the bill as the sector does not endorse it.

Amendment

Moved Mayor Carol Adams

Seconded Cr Catherine Ehrhardt

That WALGA write to the Minister and request that he withdraw the Stop Puppy Farming Bill and more appropriately consult with the sector, traditional custodians and the wider community, or failing that, that he remove any reference to Local Government in the bill as the sector does not endorse it in its current form.

CARRIED

THE MOTION AS AMENDED WAS PUT AND CARRIED

THE MOTION AS AMENDED NOW READS:

That WALGA write to the Minister and request that he withdraw the Stop Puppy Farming Bill and more appropriately consult with the sector, traditional custodians and the wider community, or failing that, that he remove any reference to Local Government in the bill as the sector does not endorse it in its current form.

RESOLUTION 12.1/2020 CARRIED

Appointments to State Council Policy Teams and Committees

Moved: Mayor Logan Howlett

Seconded: President Cr Phillip Blight

That the appointments to the Finance and Services Committee and Policy Teams outlined below be endorsed.

Finance and Services Committee

- Mayor Tracey Roberts - Chair
- Cr Paul Kelly
- President Cr Karen Chappel
- President Cr Ken Seymour
- Cr Catherine Ehrhardt
- Mr Colin Murphy – Independent representative

Environment and Waste Policy Team

- Cr Doug Thompson – South Metropolitan Zone
- Mayor Cr Ruth Butterfield – South East Metropolitan Zone
- Cr Ronnie Fleay – Great Southern Country Zone
- President Cr Michelle Rich – Peel Country Zone
- Cr Les Price – Murchison Country Zone

Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team

- Cr Russ Fishwick – North Metropolitan Zone
- Mayor Mark Irwin – North Metropolitan Zone
- Mayor Carol Adams – South Metropolitan Zone
- Mayor Logan Howlett – South Metropolitan Zone
- President Cr Cheryl Cowell – Gascoyne Country Zone

Infrastructure Policy Team

- President Cr Stephen Strange – Great Eastern Country Zone
- Cr Chris Mitchell – Kimberley Country Zone
- Cr Julie Brown – South East Country Zone
- Cr Jenna Ledgerwood – Central Metropolitan Zone
- President Cr Malcolm Cullen – Goldfields-Esperance Country Zone

People and Place Policy Team

- President Cr Phillip Blight – Central Country Zone
- President Cr Anthony Dean – South West Country Zone
- Vacant – North Metropolitan Zone
- Cr Cate McCullough – East Metropolitan Zone
- Mayor Peter Long – Pilbara Country Zone

RESOLUTION 18.1/2020 CARRIED

8. ADDITIONAL ZONE RESOLUTIONS

The following was raised by other zones and debate resulted in this motion:

Federal Government Drought Communities Program

Moved: President Cr Stephen Strange

Seconded: Cr Chris Mitchell

That State Council endorse the recommendation from the Great Eastern Country Zone relating to the Federal Government Drought Communities Program.

- That the Great Eastern Country Zone requests WALGA, in consultation with ALGA, to liaise with the WA State Government Ministers for Water, Agriculture and Environment to provide

a coordinated holistic response in respect to the ongoing drying climate issues and access to the Drought Communities Funding Program.

RESOLUTION 36.1/2020 CARRIED

Most zones accepted the remaining recommendations as proposed by the secretariat and they were passed without debate.

7.2 WALGA Status Report (Attachment)

From *Executive Officer*

BACKGROUND:

Presenting the status report for April 2020.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Central Country Zone notes the:

- State Councillor Report; and
- WALGA Status Report.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Crute** **Seconded: Cr Russell**

That the Central Country Zone notes the:

- **State Councillor Report; and**
- **WALGA Status Report.**

CARRIED

7.3 Emerging Issues (Agenda Item 4 of the WALGA State Council Agenda)

4.1 COVID-19 Pandemic – WALGA Response

WALGA Recommendation

That the information contained in this report relating to WALGA's response to the COVID-19 pandemic be noted subject to LG agreeing not to consider increasing rates for the 2020-21 financial year subject to no additional State government cost impositions on local governments

Executive Officer Comment:

This item summarises the work being undertaken by WALGA to support the sector as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. To quote from the item's Executive Summary:

- *The COVID-19 pandemic, declared as a State of Emergency on 16 March 2020 in Western Australia, is having a profound impact on the health, wellbeing and economy of Western Australia*
- *WALGA's Local Government members have been severely impacted by the pandemic and WALGA is working hard to provide advocacy, resources, communications and guidance on a range of fronts to support the Local Government sector.*
- *This item summarises at a high level the activities that WALGA is undertaking to provide support for members, and is correct and up-to-date as at 14 April 2020*
- *Additional supplementary information will be provided at the Zone and State Council meetings.*

Given the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, WALGA is working on multiple fronts to provide communications, support and advocacy on behalf of members. As noted above, the

information contained in this report is correct as at 14 April 2020 and supplementary information will be provided at Zone and State Council meetings and through alternative communication channels. The item also provides the outcome of a Special Meeting of State Council held Friday 27 March 2020, following correspondence from the Premier, Hon Mark McGowan MP, to the WALGA President, Mayor Tracey Roberts JP.

The State Council resolution is detailed in full below:

That WALGA:

1. *Notes the significant contribution of Local Governments in supporting their communities through the COVID-19 pandemic from a financial, economic, community and social perspective.*
2. *Requests each Local Government give consideration to the following suite of actions, for Local Governments with the capacity to do so, to provide a coordinated and consistent response to the COVID-19 pandemic:*
 - a. *Consider not increasing rates for the 2020-21 financial year*
 - b. *Adoption of the WALGA template rates hardship policy by Local Governments that do not currently have a policy*
 - c. *Consider rate relief options to support small businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic*
 - d. *Review fees and charges considering whether fees can be reduced, waived or deferred during the COVID-19 pandemic*
 - e. *Bring forward capital works and infrastructure spending with aggressive application of reserves and borrowing*
 - f. *Prioritise Local Government spending with businesses and contractors located within the Local Government*
 - g. *Implement business friendly payment terms to support business cash flow*
 - h. *Consider supporting Community sporting and cultural groups by either establishing grant programs or waiving fees and charges*
 - i. *Redeploy staff affected by facility closures to tasks that support the community*
3. *Notes the State Government is urgently drafting legislative and regulatory amendments to support the actions outlined in point 2 above*
4. *Notes the advocacy for the following:*
 - a. *An increase in Local Government borrowing capacity beyond current Western Australian Treasury Corporation borrowing limits*
 - b. *Suspension of the Western Australian Treasury Corporation's borrowing guarantee charge of 0.7 percent on top of the loan interest rate for the 2020-2021 financial year*
 - c. *No increase to street lighting and utility tariffs in 2020-2021*
 - d. *Deferral of revaluations for the 2020-2021 financial year*
 - e. *Request the Office of the Auditor General to cease performance audits for the 2020-2021 financial year*
 - f. *Freezing of the waste levy for the 2020-2021 financial year*

ZONE COMMENT:

Zone supports the WALGA recommendation

Meeting Comment:

During discussion on State Council Agenda Item 4.1 concern was expressed that the resolution from the Special Meeting of State Council held Friday 27 March 2020 which states in part:

2. *Requests each Local Government give consideration to the following suite of actions, for Local Governments with the capacity to do so, to provide a coordinated and consistent response to the COVID-19 pandemic:*
 - a. *Consider not increasing rates for the 2020-21 financial year*

did not take account of whether:

1. the Federal Government will continue funding (eg. Financial Assistance Grants) at current or increased levels; or
2. the State Government will agree to not increasing costs to local government, eg utility costs.

The point was made that each local government is independent and will make its decision about rate increases having regard to their own circumstances.

It was noted that whilst the State Council resolution was clearly for local governments to “consider” no rate increase, the Minister for Local Government’s subsequent comments seemed to infer that WALGA’s resolution was that there would be no rate increase. This impression places pressure on each local government, irrespective of their individual circumstances, to not increase rates.

It was also noted that the Federal and State Governments budgets will not be delivered until early October 2020, by which time local governments across Western Australia will have adopted their budgets for 2020/2021.

RESOLUTION: Moved: Cr Blight Seconded: Cr Pepper

That the WALGA recommendation relating to Item 4.1 - COVID-19 Pandemic – WALGA Response be amended to read as follows:

That the information contained in this report relating to WALGA’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic be noted subject to local governments agreeing that it will consider not increasing rates for the 2020-21 financial year on condition of there being no additional State Government cost impositions on local governments.

CARRIED

The Shire of Williams wished to be recorded as voting against the motion

9.00am Helen Westcott left the meeting

4.2 Local Government Act Emergency Provisions (05-034-02-0015 TL)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA:

1. Notes and supports the introduction of legislation that:
 - a. Provides for Ministerial emergency powers on the condition that the Local Government sector is consulted prior to the issuing of an order using this power, and,
 - b. Provides the ability for Local Governments to suspend a provision of a local law
2. Continues to advocate for the 2019-20 valuations to apply to the 2020-21 rates.

Executive Officer Comment:

As part of its response to the COVID-19 pandemic the State Government announced four proposals to amend the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) to incorporate a number of emergency provisions. The item details the proposal and what effect amendments to the Act will have.

To quote from the item's Executive Summary:

- *The Minister for Local Government announced the following four proposals to amend the Local Government Act 1995 to incorporate a number of emergency provisions as follows:*
 1. *Valuations from 2019-20 to apply to 2020-21 rates*
 2. *Rates, fees and charges to remain at 2019-20 levels in 2020-21*
 3. *Ministerial power to make changes to the Act, and*
 4. *Ability for Local Governments to suspend Local Law provisions.*
- *Following the Minister's announcement, it is understood that the Government decided not to progress with items (1) and (2) above*
- *The legislative amendments are likely to progress through Parliament in mid-April providing little opportunity for the Local Government sector to influence the legislation*
- *The amendments will only apply to the current State of Emergency and will be removed from the Act following the COVID-19 pandemic*
- *It is recommended that the legislative proposals be broadly supported and that WALGA continue to advocate for deferment of the 2020-21 valuations*

ZONE COMMENT:

Zone supports the WALGA recommendation

9.05am Helen Westcott re-joined the meeting

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Central Country Zone endorses all recommendations contained within the WALGA State Council Agenda Item 4 "Emerging Issues".

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Crute** **Seconded: Cr West**

That the Central Country Zone endorses recommendation 4.2 contained within the WALGA State Council Agenda Item 4 "Emerging Issues".

CARRIED

7.4 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 Amendment to Third Party Appeal Rights – Preferred Model (06-03-01-0001 VJ)

WALGA Recommendation

1. That the proposed amendment to the Third Party Appeals Process Preferred Model, being that third parties in addition to Local Governments are able to make an appeal on decisions made by Development Assessment Panels, is not supported, and

2. That the proposed amendment to the Third Party Appeals Process Preferred Model, being that closely associated third parties in addition to Local Governments are able to appeal decisions made by the Western Australian Planning Commission and the State Administrative Tribunal, in addition to Development Assessment Panels, is not supported.

Executive Officer Comment:

WALGA's current policy position with respect to Third Party Appeal Rights supports the introduction of Third-Party Appeal rights for decisions made by Development Assessment Panels, with the Preferred Model endorsed at May 2019 State Council Meeting.

At the 2019 WALGA Annual General Meeting (AGM), a motion was carried to amend the existing Preferred Model for Third Party Appeal rights for decisions made by Development Assessment Panels.

The following two part motion was carried by the attendees:

1. *That there be an amendment to the Third Party Appeals Process Preferred Model, being that third parties in addition to Local Governments are able to make an appeal.*
2. *That there be an amendment to the Third Party Appeals Process Preferred Model, being that closely associated third parties in addition to Local Governments are able to appeal decisions made by the Western Australian Planning Commission and the State Administrative Tribunal, in addition to Development Assessment Panels.*

As per agreement at the September 2019 State Council meeting all Local Governments were contacted, seeking their views on the two-part motion. The closing date for feedback was 28 February 2020. 35 Local Governments provided a response, with:

- 11 Local Governments supporting the AGM motions;
- 19 Local Governments against the AGM motions; and
- 5 Local Governments not supporting any Third Party Appeal rights being introduced in WA.

The responses indicate that nearly twice as many members do not support the proposed changes. On this basis, the recommendation to State Council is that the proposed amendments to the preferred Model, as proposed at the AGM, are not supported.

When this matter was considered by the Zone at its Meeting on 3 May 2019 a motion relating to not allowing third party appeal rights was lost.

ZONE COMMENT:

Zone supports the WALGA recommendation

5.2 Managing Lodging House Health Risks in WA (05-031-01-0001 BW)

WALGA Recommendation

That the submission to the Department of Health in response to the Managing Lodging House Health Risks in WA discussion paper be endorsed.

Executive Officer Comment:

As Member Councils are aware, The *Public Health Act 2016* is progressing through a five-stage process of implementation and is currently at Stage 4. All regulations from the previous *Health Act 1911* will be repealed and replaced with new regulations at the commencement of Stage 5, which is anticipated to commence in 2021.

In 2019 the Department of Health (DOH) released the 'Managing Lodging House Health Risks in WA' discussion paper for public comment with three options for consideration. The discussion paper outlined three options for consideration for Western Australia:

- **Option A:** Repeal without replacement. This option would also mean that existing local laws under the Health (MP) Act will become void;

- **Option B:** Repeal and replace with model local laws. Existing local laws under the Health (MP) Act will become void and Local Governments will need to make local laws for public health matters under the *Local Government Act 1995*; and
- **Option C:** Continue to regulate lodging houses under the Public Health Act using housing regulations.

Local Governments provided input to the WALGA submission via an information session on 26 February 2020. Information gathered during this session identified the sector's preference for Option C which is also the DOH's preferred approach.

WALGA's Submission discusses Local Government's preference for Option C to regulate lodging houses under the Public Health Act using housing regulations.

The Executive Officer believes that the WALGA recommendation should reference Option C as being the preferred option.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the WALGA Recommendation be amended to read as follows:

That the WALGA submission in response to the "Managing Lodging House Health Risks in WA" discussion paper, noting it supports the Department of Health's preferred Option C, be endorsed.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Blight** **Seconded: Cr Russell**

That the WALGA Recommendation be amended to read as follows:

That the WALGA submission in response to the "Managing Lodging House Health Risks in WA" discussion paper, noting it supports the Department of Health's preferred Option C, be endorsed.

CARRIED

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 Conley** **Seconded: Cr Davis**

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

CARRIED

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

6.1 Submission Position Statement: Special Entertainment Precincts and Options Paper for Proposed Amendments to the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997 (05-036-02-0022 VJ)

6.2 Submission on the Proposed Reforms to the Approval Process for Commercial Buildings (05-015-02-0005 VJ)

6.3 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (01-006-03-0008 RNB)

7.6 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Organisational Reports

7.1 Key Activity Reports

7.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Commercial and Communications (01-006-03-0017 ZD)

7.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Governance and Organisational Services (01-006-03-0007 TB)

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

7.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Strategy, Policy and Planning (01-006-03-0014 MJB)

7.7 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

All Policy Forums have not held meeting since the last State Council meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

7.8 WALGA President's Report (Attachment)

Presenting the WALGA President's Report

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.

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

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 Brett McGuiness

9.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG)

9.2.1 Minutes of Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Meeting Friday 3 April 2020 (Attachment)

Presenting the Minutes of Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Meeting Friday 3 April 2020.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Meeting held Friday 3 April 2020 be received.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Walker** **Seconded: Cr Conley**

That the Minutes of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Meeting held Friday 3 April 2020 be received.

CARRIED

9.2.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Delegate's Report

Cr Katrina Crute

Nil (see the Minutes of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Meeting held Friday 3 April)

9.2.3 Movement of Agricultural Machinery – Request for Feedback (Attachment)

Item 7.2 of the minutes from Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG) Meeting held Friday 3 April 2020 covers the issue of movement of agricultural machinery.

The LGAFG has requested feedback and comment on the current requirement to have a licensed heavy vehicle pilot for the movement of oversize agricultural machinery on regional distributor and State roads outside of the metropolitan area where the travel is more than 1 km between 'green zones'.

A copy of a flow chart detailing the requirements forms an attachment to the meeting agenda.

The Shire of Woodanilling has raised its concern with this requirement with the LGAFG.

The LGAFG has also noted the resolution of the Great Southern Country Zone that seeks a review of the distance limit on regional distributor roads before a license heavy vehicle pilot is required to be expanded to the nearest local government 'through road'.

Before considering these matters further the Group is requesting feedback and comment from the WALGA Zones.

The matter is presented for discussion and decision.

Meeting Comment:

There was a general discussion around the various options that could be considered including extending the distance from 1km to 5kms and allowing movement of oversize agricultural machinery between intersections on regional distributor and State roads outside of the metropolitan area.

Noted

9.3 Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)

President Leigh Ballard

No report requested

Meeting Comment:

President Ballard was asked if minutes for the DEMC Meetings were available and could be provided to the Zone for circulation.

President Ballard advised he would follow up on the suggestion.

10.0 ZONE BUSINESS - MEMBER COUNCIL MATTERS

10.1 Matters for Noting

- 10.1.1 Correspondence from the Shire of Narrogin to the Minister for Local Government, Heritage, Culture and the Arts re Office of the Auditor General Audit Fees to Local Government (Attachment)

The Office of Auditor General (OAG) has acknowledged receipt of the letter to President Ballard as follows:

The Auditor General has asked me to acknowledge receipt of the letter from the Shire President.

Please advise Mr Ballard that the OAG understands and shares his concerns (and those of the local government sector in general). The Auditor General is hoping to keep financial reporting and audit costs at a minimum during this time as far as possible. The OAG always intended to review the audit fees around September, taking into account aspects such as (a lack of) travel costs etc. We will be in contact in due course to provide further information.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the matter listed for noting be received.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Conley

Seconded: Cr Russell

That the matter listed for noting be received.

CARRIED

10.2 COVID-19 Regional Level Vulnerability Analysis (Attachment)

Reporting Officer:	Bruce Wittber, Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	22 April 2020
Attachment:	Central Country Zone - COVID-19 Health and Economic Vulnerability Analysis

Background:

The following item and attachment have been provided by WALGA for consideration by the Zone.

To assist Local Governments as they look to provide the most appropriate response and recovery packages in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, WALGA have been assessing the extent to which each local community in WA will be impacted by COVID-19. As a way of doing this, WALGA analysed a range of demographic and social data that provide an indication of the COVID-19 health and economic vulnerability of each Local Government Area in WA. The indicators analysed for each Local Government Area include:

Health vulnerability

- *Share of people aged over 70*
- *Share of lone person households*
- *Share of households with no motor vehicles*
- *Share of people who need assistance with core activities*
- *Population density*

Economic Vulnerability

- *Share of people who work in impacted industries*
- *Share of businesses in impacted industries*
- *Share of non-employing businesses*
- *Share of businesses with less than \$2m in annual turnover*
- *Share of households with no internet access*

Over 60 individual Local Governments have been provided with an analysis pack specific to their district, and now WALGA have aggregated and reported on this data at the WALGA Zone level.

Executive Officer Comment:

Whilst Member Councils will have undoubtedly been discussing matters around COVID-19 with their neighbours it was thought there may be benefit in addition to considering the information provided by WALGA on Regional Level Vulnerability there could be some value in providing time for a general discussion on the COVID-19 issue.

Noted

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 (Attachments)

Presenting the April-May 2020 WALGA Zone Update

The Department's update can be accessed by following the following link:

[DLGSC Zone Update](#)

Ms Julie Knight, Manager Local Government Executive Support will update the Zone on the Local Government Act Amendment Bill and Regulations (refer to the attached COVID-19 Response Presentation)

Mr Gordon MacMile Director Strategic Coordination and Delivery will update the Zone on the Redress Scheme (refer to the attached presentation "Redress Update April 2020").

Ms Yvette Peterson A/Director Local Government Policy and Engagement will also be participating in the Zone teleconference.

The presentations were made at Agenda Item 5.

14.2 Wheatbelt Development Commission

No report requested

14.3 Regional Development Australia (RDA) Wheatbelt

No report requested

14.4 Main Roads WA

No report requested

15.0 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Central Country Zone Executive Committee - Teleconference Wednesday 3 June 2020

Central Country Zone Meeting Friday 19 June 2020 - Teleconference Meeting

Central Country Zone Meeting - Friday 29 August 2020 - Whether this meeting is held as an in-person meeting (venue to be determined) or a teleconference will be considered at the Central Country Zone Meeting on Friday 19 June 2020 when current information on COVID19 restrictions will be known.

16.0 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.49am

DECLARATION

These minutes were confirmed by the Executive Committee of the Central Country Zone at the meeting held on Friday 19 June 2020

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