



**WALGA**

# Great Southern Zone

## **MINUTES**

of an ordinary meeting  
(2 voting delegates per council)

held on

**Monday 24 February 2020**

Venue:  
AFL Stadium  
Lockyer Avenue  
Centennial Park  
Albany

1. OPEN: 9.26am

## 2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Cr Ronnie Fleay  
Annabel Paulley

Zone President (Shire of Kojonup)  
Zone Executive Officer

**City of Albany**  
**Broomehill / Tambellup**  
**Cranbrook**  
**Denmark**  
**Gnowangerup**  
**Jerramungup**  
**Katanning**  
**Kent**  
**Kojonup**  
**Plantagenet**  
**Woodanilling**

Mayor Dennis Wellington (from 10.20am) and Cr Paul Terry  
Cr Mark Paganoni, Cr Carl Letter and CEO Keith Williams  
Cr Phil Horrocks, Cr Ruth Bigwood and CEO Peter Northover  
Cr Janine Phillips and Acting CEO David Schober  
Cr Greg Stewart and CEO Bob Jarvis  
Cr Rob Lester (from 10.26am) and CEO Martin Cuthbert  
Cr Liz Guidera, Cr Mark Stephens and CEO Julian Murphy  
Cr Scott Crosby, Cr Kate Johnston and CEO Rick Miller  
Cr John Benn and CEO Rick Mitchell-Collins  
Cr Chris Pavlovich, Cr Ken Clements and CEO Rob Stewart  
Cr Dale Douglas

Total of 16 out of a possible 22 voting delegates were in attendance at the start of the meeting.

### Guests

WALGA President, Cr Lynne Craigie  
WALGA CEO, Nick Sloan  
Carl Beck, Road Safety Adviser, WALGA RoadWise  
Gordon MacMile, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries  
Bruce Manning, CEO, Great Southern Development Commission  
Catrin Allsop, Australia's South West tourism group  
Cr Chris Thomson, City of Albany (observer)

### Apologies

Cr Greg Stocks, Cr Emma Doughty, Cr Rebecca Stephens and Cr Matt Benson-Lidholm, City of Albany  
Adam Smith, Dept of Fire and Emergency Services  
Cr Michael White, Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup  
Cr Russel Thomson and CEO Stephen Gash, Shire of Woodanilling  
Cr Keith House, Shire of Gnowangerup  
Cr Jon Oldfield, Shire of Plantagenet  
Cr Michael White, Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup  
Cr Ceinwen Gearon, Shire of Denmark  
Cr John Goodheart and CEO Julian Murphy, Shire of Katanning  
Cr Andrew Price, Shire of Jerramungup

## 3. GUEST SPEAKERS

10.45am National Redress Scheme - Gordon MacMile, Director of Strategic Coordination and Delivery, DLGSC  
1.15pm Implementation Plan for Great Southern Regional Trails Master Plan - Dr Lenore Lyons, GSCORE.

## 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cr Ronnie Fleay declared an interest in the following items in the March 2020 WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Noting/Information, as she is a member of the WA Planning Commission:-

6.1 Draft Position Statement: Residential Aged Care – Submission to WA Planning Commission.

6.7 Proposed Amendments to the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015* for Container Deposit Scheme Infrastructure

**REMINDER: All delegates present at a Zone meeting shall vote, as per Zone Standing Order 28.1**

## 5. MINUTES

### 5.1 Confirmation of Minutes

#### 5.1.1 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY ZONE MEETING – 25 November 2019

**MOVED Cr John Benn**                                **SECONDED Cr Kate Johnston**  
That the minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Great Southern Zone of the WALGA held on Monday 25 November 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

**CARRIED 16-0**

#### 5.1.2 MINUTES OF THE WALGA STATE COUNCIL MEETING – 4 December 2019

**MOVED Cr Ronnie Fleay**                                **SECONDED Cr John Benn**  
That the Minutes of meeting of the State Council of WALGA held on 4 December 2019 be received.

**CARRIED 16-0**

## 6. ACTION REGISTER

Refer to attached updated Action Register dated February 2020.

No items were removed from the Action Register.

*Nick Sloan and Carl Beck and Lynne Craigie entered the meeting at 10.08am.*

## 7. STATUS REPORT FROM WALGA TO THE ZONE

7. Status Report from WALGA to the Zone dated February 2020 was received without further discussion.

**ACTION: Executive Officer to follow up with WALGA for response to item about licensed pilot requirements on regional distributor roads.**

## 8. KEY STRATEGIC ZONE ISSUES FOR 2020

8. Refer to the updated Key Strategic Zone Issues register attached.

*Mayor Dennis Wellington and CEO Andrew Sharpe entered the room at 10.20am, making 17 voting delegates.*

Mayor Dennis Wellington welcomed delegates and guests to Albany. Key points were:-

- Mayor gave presentation to WA Cabinet meeting. Albany put 26 projects forward.
- Western Power placed advert in newspaper about a new depot in Albany but City of Albany was not aware of this prior to seeing advert in paper - asking for better communications on this.
- Tourists coming to the area - City has requested increased funding for tourism.
- New Hilton Hotel in Albany has 2 million people worldwide on their books.
- Water supply issues.
- Investment in oyster project in Oyster Harbour.
- Albany is ready to be part of explosion of interest in the South West of the state.
- Regional Capitals Alliance plans to have Ministers in attendance each month.

*Cr Rob Lester and CEO Martin Cuthbert entered the meeting at 10.26am, making 18 voting delegates.*

## **9. REVIEW OF WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA – 4 March 2020**

*GSDC CEO Bruce Manning entered the room at 10.28am.*

### **9.1 WALGA State Council President's Report - Cr Lynne Craigie**

WALGA President Cr Lynne Craigie took her report as read.

Mayor Wellington asked about Select Committee enquiry in Local Government stating that it would be doing regional visits but had no budget for this.

Lynne Craigie had heard this too. Nick Sloan said WALGA received informal advice that there was no budget for extensive regional travel. WALGA will be lobbying hard on this. If there are any direct consults, they will probably be close to the metro area. WALGA is underwhelmed with the level of consultation so far - all they wanted to talk about was insurance.

### **9.2 Discussion with WALGA CEO Nick Sloan**

Nick Sloan is getting to understand the WALGA organisation - its capacity and where it is prioritising its energies. Will be carrying out re-structure of WALGA soon, with direct focus on membership. WALGA provides extraordinary support but it is challenged at the moment. DLGSC has been challenged around recent changes. Limited ability for Department to respond. WALGA will be having a more mature conversation with the Government about how the Department can respond to Local Government. Asking for productivity commission to look at the suite of Local Government responsibilities - eg. health services, ageing and effects on Local Government's financial burden. Needs State Government to look at key advocacy messages which Local Government is putting across. Want the State to unlock the legislative and regulatory shackles to enable Local Government to go to the next step.

Ensuring WALGA does not duplicate services. Taking ownership in public domain. Making sure WALGA is fighting for the things which matters to communities and the sector.

Will be setting strategic direction and priorities at State Council meeting on 4 March.

Peter Northover - why is Department of Local Government too comfortable with sector?

Nick Sloan - because there is an agreement there, they fall back on this. 18 months ago was last formal consultation with the sector. WALGA needs to stand up and say clearly that it needs to see if the sector agrees with State Government proposals.

Cr Fleay – queried time and cost of mandatory training. Need ways to streamline this.

Nick Sloan - this was a decision by State Government which should be meeting cost of training. WALGA will be advocating this to Premier and Minister. State Government does not look like it is going to shift on this but will continue to drive this in run up to State Election. WALGA is up against North and South Metro TAFE. WALGA is working hard to just have cost recovery and WALGA is cheaper than TAFEs. WALGA needs feedback on training. Elected Members say they get more benefit from face-to-face training. Seeing whole councils doing training en bloc. Any concerns, contact Tony Brown at WALGA.

Bob Jarvis suggested 2 tiers of training for new and experienced councillors.

Nick Sloan - State Government has set the curriculum for the training but he will pass on to Tony Brown.

Andrew Sharpe raised the ongoing situation and gave examples of Councils that have become dysfunctional and ultimately leading to an Inquiry into the Local Government. This situation is continuing to have reputational impact on the sector and he suggested that WALAG could advocate of a better system that allows for early interventions that prevent a full breakdown in Council relationships leading to costly and long Inquiries.

Nick Sloan - legislative review going on at the moment. Legislation is currently inadequate. WALGA attempting to provide support programmes with varying degrees of success. This was picked up in governance review last year. WALGA commissioned piece of work to look at marketing strategy.

## 10. PRESENTATION ON NATIONAL REDRESS SCHEME - Gordon MacMile

The presentation was circulated to Zone councils after the meeting.

Key additional points:

- State Government will cover redress payments and psychological counselling for survivors. Redress payments have been around \$76,000 so far.
- State Government will make apology to survivors.
- Deadline for joining the National Redress Scheme is 30 June 2020.
- Template report will be sent to all Local Governments – councils to delegate authority to person within their council who will sign service agreement.

There were no questions from delegates after the presentation.

*The meeting adjourned for a 10-minute break at 11.20am prior to session with Tourism Minister.*

*The meeting resumed at 11.33am.*

## 11. SESSION WITH WA MINISTER FOR TOURISM, PAUL PAPALIA (1 hour and 15 minutes)

11.1 Presentations on Great Southern tourism product were given by:-

- The Amazing South Coast - Peter Grigg.
- Great Southern Treasures - Emily Hardie.
- Great Southern Trails Master Plan - Dr Lenore Lyons.

11.2 Presentation by Minister Papalia including responses to questions in advance from the Zone. Refer to attached list of questions.

Key points made by Minister Papalia:-

- There was not really a leisure market when Labor came to power. Heavy business travel market during the mining boom. WA had the most expensive hotels and coffee in the world. Working holiday and business market collapsed after boom. Huge hotel vacancies. Worked with industry to develop an action plan launched in March 2018. WA gateway - focus to expand direct flights to WA. Interstate - had to change reputation from business and mining to promote attractions and events. Campaigns around seasonal opportunities, AFL marketing, etc. Campaign to save cruise shipping. Affordable flights available to more destinations.
- Current fear is that other nations will stop travelling to WA due to coronavirus and the impact it will have.
- Visited Stirling Range National Park yesterday and talked with business operators. Grass trees are already greening up. State Government has brought forward funding to market Stirlings to visitors on East Coast and to get WA locals to visit.
- Continuing to aggressively market the State to 10 main countries.
- Tourism WA (TWA) does not have infrastructure/capital money but rather it spends on marketing and events. Product created locally and then TWA will promote this to the world. TWA sells every region in WA. The product is world-class.
- Tourism groups to talk to the Minister's office about tourism priorities relevant to the Great Southern for planning purposes.
- Minister went on the killer whale Bremer Canyon tour yesterday and will be pushing this even more now. WA can now do whale-watching at all times of the year – Minister will talk to TWA about elevating whale tour promotion.
- Minister said he was impressed with GSCORE and trails master plan.

Cr Fleay asked about the gap in capacity to deliver Aboriginal tourism.  
Minister - having world indigenous conference in WA in April 2020. Premier will be launching action plan at the conference to launch indigenous tourism. Minister MacTiernan has been lobbied about funding cultural centre in Albany.

More broadly with aboriginal tourism, the Government is doing Camping with Custodians. Identifying sites where people are living on-country, installing camping infrastructure and linking it with a local attraction. State Government paid for infrastructure and locals built it. It's a matter of finding the right sites and the local people with the capacity to do this programme. They don't have to be a campsite, they just need to be able to brand it.

Shire of Denmark queried the effect that online bookings will have on visitor centres in the future.  
Minister - we will encourage online bookings. It is challenging but ultimately you will get greater reach. It's growing numbers overall. Minister can't stop this. It is a visitor expectation now.

Peter Grigg – need to separate visitor centres from visitor servicing. We will see dramatic change in what visitor centres are. Must maintain the visitor servicing rather than maintaining buildings. Must change to take advantage of the opportunity.  
Minister - the visitor centre in Albany will stay because it has diversified and visitors will want that personal connection. People tend to look for visitor centres in the regions and I don't think they will be as much at threat. Need to adapt to this environment. Bushfires and coronavirus have come at a time when WA is best prepared rather than where we were 2 years ago at end of mining boom. Will hopefully rollout a regional aviation fund of \$5 million soon, enabling visitors to get around WA more easily.

*Minister sampled locally-produced foods for light lunch including marron, yabbies, avocado, strawberries, blueberries, goats cheese and wholemeal bread.*

*Zone President presented gift bag to Minister Papalia before he left the meeting at 12.47pm.*

Lunch break.

*Mayor Dennis Wellington left the meeting after lunch.*  
Meeting resumed at 1.21pm with 17 voting delegates in attendance.

## **12. PRESENTATION ON GREAT SOUTHERN TRAILS MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

Dr Lenore Lyons of GSCORE – see attached copy of powerpoint presentation.

Key points:

- Accredited trail towns are being set up - Collie is pushing hard but Albany may come in and be the first of these.
- Hoping to develop service agreements with Local Governments.

## **13. CONTINUATION OF WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA BUSINESS**

### **13.1 State Councillor's Report**

Cr Ronnie Fleay had nothing to report that had not been already covered so far in the meeting.

### **13.2 Matters for Decision – Zone consideration required**

**MOVED** Cr Chris Pavlovich

**SECONDED** Cr Rob Lester

**That the Great Southern Zone supports the recommendations for items 5.1 - 5.3 in the March 2020 WALGA State Council Agenda.**

**CARRIED 17-0**

### **13.3 Matters for Noting – Zone information**

No discussion.

## 13.4 State Council Status Report

No discussion

## 14. EMERGING ISSUES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Written report from Shire of Cranbrook attached. No other written reports received.

Cr Fleay sought feedback on written and verbal reports.

Keith Williams - continue with written reports and have verbal reports for urgent items.

Cr Guidera felt verbal reports were beneficial as councils were able to find out what was going on in the other parts of the region.

Verbal updates as follows:-

### Shire of Katanning

- Cr Liz Guidera thanked all the surrounding councils and communities for their assistance during the recent Katanning bushfire.
- Cr Fleay commended Cr Guidera, Julian Murphy and Katanning for the professional way they dealt with the fire.

### Shire of Plantagenet

- Doubling size of medical facility.
- Completed swimming pool feasibility study to look at assets around the pool.
- Active trails committee working with GSCORE looking at local and national trails.
- Success of Skywalk - up to 90,000 visitors per annum currently.
- Mt Barker communications tower - looking to rebuild it and set up as tourist attraction with 360 degree views and wheelchair access.
- Mainstreet upgrade completed and looking at upgrading Albany Highway area to attract people into town.

### Shire of Gnowangerup

- Thank you event held last Friday night in Borden for fire fighters involved in Stirling Range fire.
- Tractor will be tourist attraction in town.
- New IGA supermarket for the town.

### Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup

- 90% complete on housing project.
- Water is issue - met with Dept of Water recently. Ageing infrastructure.

### Shire of Kojonup

- Housing project moving along well - some are nearly at lock up stage.

### Shire of Woodanilling

- Having success with clearing permits to do with fire mitigation - can clear roads and reserves for bushfire mitigation.

### Shire of Cranbrook

- Toilets at heavy vehicle rest bay will start in next couple of weeks using funding from Road Safety Commission.
- Looking at drought funding.
- REDS funding for accommodation at Frankland River caravan park.
- Funding for fire shed at Tunney.

### Shire of Denmark

- Pipeline will go ahead mid-year. It's about drought proofing our area. Only talking about water for townsite at the moment, not people out of town.

## 15. MOU FOR MUTUAL EMERGENCY SUPPORT BY PARTNERING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Refer to attached draft MOU and map of Local Governments with current MOU.

### Discussion points

During Katanning fire, surrounding councils came to help automatically so MOU would be creating something which is not required.

Country councils do this without thinking. MOU is just for assurance and risk management purposes.

Shire of Plantagenet has agreement in place with timber companies. If a group of Local Governments wanted to do an MOU, they could organise this themselves.

**RESOLVED: That Great Southern Zone of WALGA councils do not enter into a Memorandum of Understanding as the current system of support works well.**

## 16. MINISTERIAL AND / OR DIRECTOR GENERAL ATTENDANCE AT REMAINING 2020 ZONE MEETINGS - LINKED TO KEY STRATEGIC ZONE ISSUES

Councils to decide which Ministers, Politicians, Directors General and other speakers they wish to attend remaining Zone meetings in 2020.

Zone meeting dates	Guest Speakers
<b>Monday 4 May</b> in Nyabing, Shire of Kent (Joint meeting with Regional Road Group)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Opposition Transport Spokesperson, Libby Mettam – confirmed.</li><li>• Director General, Dept of Water and Water Corporation – to be confirmed.</li></ul>
<b>Friday 26 June</b> - Zone 1-day conference in Mt Barker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Premier Mark McGowan and Minister for Regional Development Alannah MacTiernan – to be confirmed</li><li>• Presentation by Office of the Auditor General Subject: Update on local government auditing so far and look at a few of OAG's recent Local Government financial and performance audits. Include issues raised by CEO Julian Murphy and Cr Rob Lester.</li></ul>
<b>Friday 28 August</b> in Woodanilling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minister for Education &amp; Training Sue Ellery – to be confirmed.</li><li>• Presentation by DLGSC – to be confirmed.</li><li>• Simon Lyas, RDA Great Southern – confirmed.</li></ul>
<b>Mon 23 November</b> in Kojonup (Joint meeting with Regional Road Group)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minister for Transport, Rita Saffioti – to be confirmed.</li><li>• Reserve speaker – WA Minister for Communications / Emergency Services – to be confirmed.</li></ul>

Cr Paganoni suggested inviting Housing Minister Peter Tinley to talk about extension of First Home Owners Grant and parity home lending requirements between regional areas and the metropolitan area, as raised at November meeting by the Shire of Plantagenet.

Cr Lester - water is becoming a serious issue, so meet with Dept of Water and Water Corporation.

Cr Guidera - Pinwerning dam near Katanning has been decommissioned but it would be a really good fire fighting source for our region.

Cr Clements - need to invite people in Government with influence before the next State Election.

Ask Premier Mark McGowan to first meeting of 2021 before State Election - meet in Albany.

**ACTION: Executive Officer to follow up with MPs Rick Wilson, Peter Rundle and Terry Redman about attendance at Zone meetings.**

*Cr Liz Guidera left the room at 2.07pm and did not return before the end of the meeting, leaving 16 voting delegates.*



## 17. REPORTS

No	Organisation / Delegates	Updates / Info
17.1	Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG) Delegate: Cr Russel Thomson (Shire of Woodanilling) Proxy: Cr Scott Crosby (Shire of Kent)	14 February 2020 meeting cancelled. Next meeting on 3 April 2020.
17.2	Great Southern District Leadership Group (formerly Great Southern Human Services Forum) Representative: Rani Param (City of Albany)	Written report was circulated.
17.3	Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) – CEO Keith Williams.	Keith Williams reported following points:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussed Telstra and mobile phone tower battery back up again - DEMC took to SEMC. Western Power will meet with SEMC and Telstra.</li> <li>• Issue where landlines are being phased out in some towns. If power supplies are cut, there will be communications failures.</li> <li>• Discussed water supplies and fire season.</li> <li>• African swine fever - discussed issues which will arise if it does come to Australia. Dept of Ag will be lead agency. \$250 million industry with \$39 million exports - high mortality rate from the disease.</li> </ul>
17.4	South Coast Natural Resource Management (SCNRM) Delegate: CEO Keith Williams Proxy: Cr Jon Oldfield (Plantagenet)	No meeting held recently.
17.5	Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC)	Hosted a visit from Curtin University nursing staff. GSDC provided letter of support for university hub funding application.
17.6	Great Southern RoadWise – Carl Beck	Report circulated. Fair shocking start to 2020 with 5 fatalities in the first month in WA. Fatigue and distraction are still key issues.
17.7	Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries – Gordon MacMile	Update from Director General Duncan Ord emailed under separate cover.
17.8	Executive Officer	Discussion about renewal of Executive Officer's contract – copy of draft contract circulated.

*The Executive Officer left the room at 2.13pm.*

**MOVED Cr John Benn**

**SECONDED Cr Rob Lester**

**That the Executive Officer Annabel Paulley's contract be renewed for a further 2 years from 31 May 2020 to 30 May 2022.**

**CARRIED 16-0**

*The Executive Officer re-entered the room at 2.15pm.*

## 18. FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report for the period 1 November 2019 to 31 January 2020 is attached.

Opening balance as at 1 November 2019	<b>\$8,573.68</b>
Total debits	(\$2,224.16)
Total credits	\$885.00
Closing balance as at 31 January 2020	<b>\$7,234.52</b>

**MOVED Cr John Benn**

**SECONDED Cr Mark Paganoni**

**That the financial statement for the period 1 November 2019 to 31 January 2020 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the Zone finances.**

**CARRIED 16-0**

Close: 2.16pm