

MINUTES OF THE ZONE MEETING

held at the York Recreation & Convention Centre, Baker Street (via Forrest Street), York
Friday 21 August 2020 commencing at 10:09 am

1 OPENING & WELCOME

The Zone President and Chair of the meeting, Cr Ken Seymour, welcomed delegates and observers and introduced Cr Denese Smythe, President Shire of York. Cr Smythe welcomed delegates and observers to York and in particular Mayor Tracey Roberts, President WALGA, and Mr Nick Sloan, CEO WALGA. She commented on –

- Council and staff have been extremely busy during the past few months due to the impact of COVID-19.
- Our new CEO, Mr Chris Linnell, commenced in February and then COVID-19 hit; what a welcome.
- Activities have included staff working from home, staff being redeployed, launch of YORKIND (Social Isolation Support Centre), adoption of a financial hardship policy, major strategic review, redevelopment of Avon Park, resignation of Cr David Wallace, farewellled Executive Manager Ms Suzie Hazlehurst, upgrades to Town Hall, no increase in rates, York dollars developed, discount for payment of rates in full and on time, business support and grants, continued fighting the Alluwana landfill, visit by Governor Hon Kim Beazley, update to branding of York.
- Tourism hit hard during the lockdown but with the easing of restrictions the town is now quite busy.
- York Motor Show, York Races and WestCycle Canola Classic will be held in York 13 September 2020.

2 ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

Delegates -

Cr John Davis	Shire of Chittering
Cr Steven Carter	Shire of Dalwallinu (by video)
Cr Jan Court	Shire of Gingin (Deputy President)
Cr Roly Van Gelderen	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 Denese Smythe	Shire of York

Observers –

Mr Matthew Gilfellow	Shire of Chittering
Mr Brent Bailey	Shire of Dandaragan (by video)
Mr Aaron Cook	Shire of Gingin (by video)
Mr Peter Bentley	Shire of Goomalling
Cr Tracy Lefroy	Shire of Moora (from 10:32 am)
Cr Julie Williams	Shire of Northam
Cr Beth Ruthven	Shire of Toodyay
Ms Suzie Hazlehurst	Shire of Toodyay (by video)
Cr Pam Heaton	Shire of York
Cr Kevin Trent	Shire of York
Cr Stephen Muhleisen	Shire of York
Cr Ashley Garratt	Shire of York
Mr Chris Linnell	Shire of York
Ms Mandy Walker	Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt
Ms Jodie Holbrook	Director Local Government Policy & Engagement (by video) Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
Ms Yvette Peterson	Manager Strategy and Policy (by video) Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
Mayor Tracey Roberts	President, WALGA
Mr Nick Sloan	CEO, WALGA
Mr Cliff Simpson	Road Safety Advisor (Wheatbelt North), WALGA
Mr Mark Lloyd	Live Music Events
Robert Dew	Zone Executive Officer

2.2 **Apologies**

Mr Jason Whiteaker	Shire of Northam
Ms Jenifer Collins	Regional Manager Wheatbelt, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
Mr Tony Brown	Exec Manager, Governance & Organisational Services, WALGA
Hon Martin Aldridge MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Laurie Graham MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Colin de Grussa MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Mia Davies MLA	Member for Central Wheatbelt
Mr Shane Love MLA	Member for Moore

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

4 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

5 **MINUTES**

5.1 **Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes of the Zone Meeting held 19 June 2020 at Calingiri. Copies of these Minutes have been circulated to all member Councils.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held on 19 June 2020, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr C Antonio seconded –

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held on 19 June 2020, as printed and circulated, be confirmed. CARRIED

5.2 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

(a) Off Road Vehicles and Local Government (Item 5.2(b))

At the May 2020 meeting Mr Gordon MacMile, Chair of the Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Committee, advised in response to a question that he would look into the possibility of holding a meeting of the Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Committee. Following that meeting, meetings of the Committee have been held. Cr J Court to provide an update.

Cr Jan Court gave an update.

(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 2 September 2020. The Zone is able to provide comment or submit alternate recommendations to State Council for consideration.

Matters for Decision

5.1 Park Home Approvals and the Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995 (Page 5)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA requests the State Government to:

- 1. Urgently amend the Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995 to allow the continued lawful placement of new manufactured homes on caravan park sites until 2030; and*
- 2. Undertake a full review of the Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995 and associated legislation and regulations.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- The State currently regulates the approval and ongoing management of park homes within a caravan park under the *Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995*.
- A recent SAT case has highlighted the conflict in the various legislative controls on this form of accommodation.
- New Regulations gazetted in March 2020 do not address the fundamental issue of locating park homes within caravan parks, they only provide a temporary solution after the SAT case.
- A full review of the *Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995* and other legislative requirements (i.e. planning and building) is required to enable a more streamlined assessment of park homes in caravan parks, and remove the conflict between the different State legislative requirements.

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

5.2 Submission on Decision Paper – Swimming Pool and Safety Barrier Control (Page 7)

WALGA Recommendation

That the submission on the Decision Paper on Swimming Pool and Safety Barrier Control, be endorsed.

WALGA Executive Summary

- In June 2020, a Decision Paper on Swimming Pool and Safety Barrier Control was released to the Local Government sector. A workshop with Local Government Building Surveyors and Swimming Pool inspectors was held to assist in providing feedback on the 16 proposals contained in the Decision Paper.
- The proposed changes to the swimming pool barrier inspection process has resourcing implications for the sector.
- A submission has been prepared to meet the comment deadline of 16 September 2020.

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

5.3 Development Assessment Panels (Page 16)

WALGA Recommendation

That the findings and recommendations of the Development Assessment Panels, 2011-20 Review be endorsed and that WALGA advocate for:

- 1. The abolishment of the current 'mandatory' mechanism which requires a Development Assessment Panel to act as the decision maker where a proposal has a value of \$10 million or greater, and replace this with an 'opt in' mechanism for all proposals;*
- 2. Raising the Development Assessment Panel threshold from the current \$2 million back to \$3 million; and*

3. *The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage to make public comprehensive data related to the performance of the Development Assessment Panel system to improve the transparency of the system.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Development Assessment Panels (DAPs) system was introduced in July 2011 with the intention of creating a more streamlined planning approval process and to establish a better balance between professional advice and community representation.
- The Association undertook a review of the DAP system in 2016 in response to motions from Metropolitan Local Governments calling for the abolition of DAPs, this review found that the DAP system was failing to meet its aims.
- The Association has undertaken a further review of the DAP system, looking at the years 2011-2020. This review provides evidence that the DAPs system is still failing to meet its aims and objectives and is in need of further reforms.

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

5.4 Air Handling Discussion Paper Part Two (Page 18)

WALGA Recommendation

That the submission to the Department of Health in response to the Air Handling discussion paper Part Two be endorsed.

WALGA Executive Summary

- 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.
- The Department of Health previously released a discussion paper on Air Handling where WALGA provided a formal submission supporting the development of new regulations, but noting the need for further detail in the content of the regulations. The Department has now released part two of the discussion paper which provides more detail on the regulations.
- WALGA's Submission discusses Local Government's preference for air handling enforcement to be centralised with the Department of Health, rather than Local Government as the enforcement agency.

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

5.5 Local Government Review Panel Final Report (Late Item)

WALGA Recommendation

1. *That WALGA SUPPORT the following Recommendations from the Local Government Review Panel Final Report:*

- *Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7;*
- *Recommendation 8;*
- *Recommendation 11;*
- *Recommendations 12, 13 and 14;*
- *Recommendation 15;*
- *Recommendations 16 and 17;*
- *Recommendation 24;*
- *Recommendations 25(b) to (f);*
- *Recommendations 26(b), (d), (e) and (f);*
- *Recommendations 28, 29, 30, 31, 32(1)(a) to (o) and 32(2)(a);*
- *Recommendations 33 and 34;*
- *Recommendations 36 and 37;*
- *Recommendations 38(c), (d) and (e);*
- *Recommendations 39, 40, 41(a) to (g) and (i);*
- *Recommendation 42;*
- *Recommendations 43 and 44;*
- *Recommendations 45, 46, 47, 48 and 49;*
- *Recommendations 50, 51 and 52;*

- Recommendation 54;
 - Recommendations 55(a), (b), (d), (e), (f), (h) and (i);
 - Recommendation 56;
 - Recommendation 57;
 - Recommendation 59;
 - Recommendations 62 and 63;
 - Recommendation 64 (c);
 - Recommendations 65(a) to (e).
2. That WALGA OPPOSE the following Recommendations from the Local Government Review Panel Final Report:
- Oppose Recommendation 5;
 - Oppose Recommendations 20, 21 and 27;
 - Oppose Recommendations 22 and 25(a);
 - Oppose Recommendations 23 and 25(a);
 - Oppose Recommendation 26(c);
 - Oppose Recommendations 32(2)(b) and (c);
 - Oppose Recommendation 35;
 - Oppose Recommendations 38(a) and (b);
 - Oppose Recommendation 41(h);
 - Oppose Recommendations 53(a) and (b);
 - Oppose Recommendations 55 (c) and (g);
 - Oppose Recommendation 58;
 - Oppose Recommendation 60;
 - Oppose Recommendation 61;
3. That WALGA CONDITIONALLY SUPPORT the following Recommendations from the Local Government Review Panel Final Report as described:
- Recommendations 9 and 10 and but oppose any proposal to remove the poll provisions (Dadour provisions) in Clause 8, Schedule 2.1 of the Local Government Act;
 - Recommendation 18 and reiterate WALGA's current advocacy position that there be adequate funding of legislative responsibilities assigned to Local Governments in relation to service delivery to remote Aboriginal communities;
 - Recommendation 19 in support of a broad review of the property franchise including a community consultative process;
 - Recommendation 26(a) conditional upon a review of the relative benefits and merits of changes to reduce numbers of Elected Members on Council be supported, on the following basis:
 - Populations up to 5,000 – 5 to 7 Councillors (incl. President)
 - Populations between 5,000 and 75,000 – 5 to 9 Councillors (incl. Mayor/President)
 - Populations above 75,000 – up to 15 Councillors (incl. Mayor);
4. That WALGA carry out further consultation on the following Recommendations from the Local Government Review Panel Final Report:
- Recommendation 22 – Property Franchise;
 - Recommendations 64(a) and (b) - WALGA
 - Recommendation 65(f) – Transfer of Employee Entitlements

WALGA Executive Summary

- In 2017 the State Government announced a review of the *Local Government Act 1995*.
- Given the breadth of matters covered by the Local Government Act, a staged approach to the review was adopted:
 - Stage one: priority reforms
 - Stage two: wide ranging reforms leading to a new LOCAL Government Act
- This agenda item relates to the Stage 2 reforms. The Department of Local Government carried out a consultation process in 2018/19 where over 3,000 submissions were received.
- The Minister for Local Government appointed an Independent Panel to consider submissions received by the Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries on the review of the Local Government Act in November 2019.
- The Panel's report has made 65 recommendations.

- The Panel's report does not represent Government policy; the Minister for Local Government has stated the report will be considered as part of the Act Review process.
- This agenda item seeks a sector position on the recommendations. The recommendations to support, oppose or seek further consultation or information is proposed in this item.

Copies of this item were circulated to members and delegates prior to the meeting.

Mayor T Roberts and Mr N Sloan gave background and update on this item and answered questions from delegates.

Mayor T Roberts stressed the importance of feedback on the recommendations in the Local Government Review Panel's Final Report to guide WALGA in this matter. Input will be consolidated into a recommendation to State Council. She commented that due to the tight time-frame, WALGA would be happy to receive comment from local governments who have not been able to formally consider and adopt a resolution in regards to this matter.

The meeting noted that the Minister for Local Government had accepted an invitation to attend the State Council Meeting to be held 2 September 2020.

Cr Tracy Lefroy entered the meeting at 10:32 am.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr C Antonio seconded –

That the Zone support WALGA's recommendations to State Council on the Local Government Review Panel Final Report.

CARRIED 6/3

RESOLUTION

Cr C Antonio moved and Cr R Madacsi seconded –

That Zone members be requested to review State Council agenda item 5.5 and the Local Government Review Panel's Final report and to provide comment and feedback to the Zone and WALGA in time for consideration by State Council at its meeting to be held 2 September 2020.

CARRIED

The meeting requested that if possible, comment and feedback be provided by Friday 28 August 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

That the above recommendations and comments be endorsed.

RESOLUTION

Cr C Antonio moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –

That the above Zone recommendations and comments be endorsed.

CARRIED

Matters for Noting/information

6.1 COVID-19 Pandemic – Update (Page 26)

WALGA Recommendation

That the information contained in this report be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- At the time of writing the COVID-19 pandemic in WA is under control, with a significant reduction in active cases and no evidence of community transmission.
- Restrictions in WA have eased, enabling many businesses and Local Government facilities to reopen. However outbreaks in Victoria and New South Wales have delayed the reopening of WA's border until at least August 15.
- While planning for possible local outbreaks of COVID-19 is underway, the focus has turned to recovery.

- The WA Government announced a State Recovery Plan on 26 July 2020. WALGA advocated for a package of Local Government led economic stimulus measures, *Rebooting Local Economies* during the State's consultation on developing the Recovery Plan.
- WALGA has continued to provide dedicated COVID-19 support and advocacy for members, including regular updates, webinars, guidance and analysis.

The meeting noted that WALGA had provided an additional update to be read in conjunction with the above item 6.1. This update was circulated to members and delegates prior to the meeting.

WALGA Executive Summary (Update)

1. At the time of writing the COVID-19 pandemic in WA remains under control, with only 5 active cases and no evidence of community transmission.
2. Based on health advice Phase 5 of the State Government Roadmap has been further delayed until at least 24 October 2020, and the Perth Royal Show has been cancelled.
3. Widespread, unknown source community transmission in Victoria has resulted in the reimposition of Stage 3 and 4 restrictions in that State and a further downward revision in GDP and national employment forecasts.
4. Learnings from Victoria are informing the WA Government's outbreak preparedness.
5. State Recovery Plan announcements are being made progressively, with region plans released for the Kimberley, Wheatbelt, Great Southern, Mid-West, Gascoyne, Peel and Goldfields-Esperance.
6. WALGA has undertaken local economic impact analysis for each Local Government Area to assist in operational and strategic planning decision making. Each Local Government CEO and Mayor or President has been provided with a tailored analysis pack for its area. A tailored report for your Regional Development Area is attached.

Mr N Sloan gave an update on this item and the economic analysis undertaken by WALGA.

6.2 Planning and Development Amendment Act 2020 (Page 31)

WALGA Recommendation

That the advocacy undertaken on the Planning and Development Amendment Act 2020 be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- The *Planning and Development Amendment Bill 2020* was passed by Parliament in June 2020, receiving Royal Assent on the 7 July 2020.
- The 26 amendments include a new development assessment pathway to the WAPC, establishment of a Special Matters Development Assessment Panel, and changes to the *Planning and Development Act 2005* that were foreshadowed in 2013.
- Regulations are currently being drafted by the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage.

6.3 Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) Program (Page 34)

WALGA Recommendation

That the following be noted:

1. *An update on progress of the Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS), including the implementation timeline for the project.*
2. *Advice from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) for Local Governments to suspend investment in current fire danger rating signage (including electronic signs) until a final prototype is announced.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) Program will design, develop and implement a national fire danger rating system to better describe the overall fire danger and risk to firefighters, land managers, broader government including Local Governments, utilities, businesses and the community.
- The project has been endorsed and overseen by the Australian New Zealand Emergency Management Committee and commenced in 2016. Critical research and prototypes are being socialised with all jurisdictions with workshops having been held in WA in September 2019 and July 2020.

- An Implementation Plan is currently being developed by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), which will include extensive engagement with relevant stakeholders across WA to determine impacts and organisational change requirements. Implementation of the AFDRS is scheduled for June 2022.

6.4 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (Page 36)

WALGA Recommendation

That the resolutions of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council at its 24 June 2020 meeting be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- This item summaries the outcomes of the MWAC meeting held on 24 June 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

That the above matters for noting/information be noted.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe 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 38)
- 7.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Governance and Organisational Services (Page 43)
- 7.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure (Page 47)
- 7.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Strategy, Policy and Planning (Page 49)

7.2 Policy Forum Reports (Page 52)

Mr N Sloan drew attention to the requirement for members elected or re-elected in October 2019 too have completed the five Council Members Essential training courses by 21 October 2020. WALGA has requested the Minister for Local Government to give an extension of 6 months however, feedback is that it will probably not be given.

RECOMMENDATION

That the above organisational reports be noted.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr P Bantock 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.

Mayor T Roberts presented her report and commented on –

- COVID-19 recovery.
- State Recovery Advisory Group – she is a member.
- Local Government Review Panel Report
- State Road Funds to Local Government. Disappointed to see that not all funds were acquitted by 30 June. This has the potential to impact on the case for increased funds to local government.
- Select Committee into Local Government.

Cr J Court referred to Mayor Roberts discussions with Hon Mark Coulton MP, Federal Minister for Regional Health, Regional Communications and Local Government and enquired as to the outcomes. Mayor Roberts replied that the discussions had been by webinar and that she had found the Minister to be very open to suggestions. She recommended that concerns around rural health be highlighted and representations made to the Federal Government.

Cr D Smythe thanked WALGA for the webinars it was putting on and commented that they were very informative.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr C Antonio seconded –
That the WALGA President’s Report be received.**

CARRIED

6.3 State Councillor’s Report

Report by Cr Ken Seymour.

RECOMMENDATION

That the State Councillor’s report be received.

Cr K Seymour presented his report.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe 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 – August 2020 (attached to Agenda)

RECOMMENDATION

That the August 2020 Status Report be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –
That the August 2020 Status Report be received.**

CARRIED

7 ZONE REPORTS

7.1 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group

(a) Minutes

Minutes of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group meeting held 19 July 2020 (attached to Agenda).

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group meeting held 10 July 2020 be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –
That the minutes of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group meeting held 10 July 2020 be received.**

CARRIED

(b) Matters Arising from the Meeting

- Movement of Agricultural Machinery – The Group considered the responses to its request for feedback on the requirement to have a licensed heavy vehicle pilot for movement of oversize agricultural machinery on regional distributor and State Roads outside of the metropolitan area

(Orange Zone roads) where travel is more than 1 km between Green Zones. The Group resolved to support a review of the requirements to enable the movement to be without licensed heavy vehicle pilot on Orange Zone roads from the point of entry to the nearest local government through road or for a distance of 5 km, whichever is the greater.

The WA Local Government Association has advised that matter was on the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Group (SAC) agenda for its meeting on 13 August 2020. In the absence of a compelling case for change, which we don't have, Main Roads advised delegates that the risk analysis supports the current 1 km maximum distance on regional distributors without a licenced pilot.

- Speed Limit for Tractors – The Group requested the WA Local Government Association to prepare a discussion paper on the speed limits on public roads of tractors and self-propelled agricultural Machinery for consideration by the Group.

The WA Local Government Association has advised that it is represented on the Agricultural Vehicle Advisory Committee are that they are across the tractor speed limit matter. WALGA's Infrastructure Policy Team will need to be convinced that a discussion paper on this matter is a high priority as not many Local Governments drive tractors extensive distances on the road and this would probably need to be the justification. There is potentially a road safety benefit (to following traffic) if tractors are travelling closer to the speed of other traffic.

- Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Group is scheduled for 2 October 2020.

Zone delegate to the Group, Cr B Haywood, may care to comment.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report on the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group be received.

RESOLUTION

Cr C Antonio moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –

That the report on the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group be received. CARRIED

7.2 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee

Report by Zone Delegate Cr C Antonio on meeting 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 –

- Meetings of the Wheatbelt Operational Area Support Group are held fortnightly by Zoom.
- Not much change since the last report.
- 8,400 travellers are coming into the State each week. 6,400 of these are truck drivers. Concern expressed by health providers at testing and risk of introducing COVID-19 into the State.
- Running an emergency scenario with COVID-19 on 3 September in Narrogin.
- Most truck drivers are owner operators.
- Believe COVID-19 will come into the State and that there will be a need for control when it does.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe 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.
- (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.

Ms J Holbrook commented on –

- State Local Government Partnership Agreement – Talking to WALGA, LG Professionals and the State Government as to what worked. Engagement and consultation on new agreement.
- Community Resilience Scorecard –7,666 people across WA responded to the survey; 638 from the Wheatbelt Region. Provides a social link to State Government programs. The report has been disaggregated into 10 reports based on the Regional Development Commissions. A more detailed report can be provided to local governments on request.

The meeting requested information on arts funding for presentation to the next Zone meeting.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr S Carter seconded –

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

CARRIED

8.2 RDA Wheatbelt

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

RECOMMENDATION

That the RDA Wheatbelt report be received.

Ms M Walker presented her report and commented on –

- GrantGuru - To launch on 11 September. Access is through the RDAW website. 63 local governments are participating. Local governments who are not subscribers will have access to a public view. A collaboration between Mid West-Gascoyne and Wheatbelt RDAs.
- COVID-19 recovery - RDAs have a weekly teleconference with the Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories. The Minister is seeking feedback.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr R Madacsi 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.

No report.

8.4 RoadWise (Wheatbelt North)

Presentation of the RoadWise (Wheatbelt North) report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the RoadWise (Wheatbelt North) report be received.

Mr C Simpson gave a presentation on the road safety performance of Local Government controlled roads.

Cr P Bantock referred to local governments' duty of care on local roads and the frustration of local governments with the delays in environmental approvals for roadworks. Mr Simpson replied that this was a perennial problem but some success had been achieved by involving environmental groups early in the process.

Cr J Davis asked if a list was available of crashes on local roads and reasons for the crash. Mr Simpson replied that it was and that he was happy to talk with local government staff to drill down to the reasons for each individual crash.

Cr C Antonio commented that every death and serious injury in a road crash was a tragedy. He urged care in looking at statistics during the COVID-19 travel restriction period.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr C Antonio seconded –
That the RoadWise (Wheatbelt North) report be received.**

CARRIED

8.5 Wheatbelt Development Commission

Presentation of report from Wheatbelt Development Commission.

Recommendation

That the Wheatbelt Development Commission Report be received.

No report.

9 FINANCE

9.1 Financial Reports

Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Report and Statement of receipts and Payments for the year ending 30 June 2020 are attached to the agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

That the financial reports for the year ending 30 June 2020, as attached, be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr S Carter seconded –
That the financial reports for the year ending 30 June 2020, 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 – September 2020 Quarter	3,684.25
	TOTAL (no GST)	<u>\$3,684.25</u>

RECOMMENDATION

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

RESOLUTION

Cr P Bantock moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –

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

CARRIED

9.3 Executive Officer Services - Fees

BACKGROUND

The 2009 Annual General Meeting resolved that the annual and hourly rates for Executive Officer services to the Zone be adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index with any change effective from 1 July.

COMMENT

The Consumer Price Index for the 12 month period ending 31 March 2020 increased by 2.1%. The current rates for the Executive Officer services are –

- Ordinary Zone Business \$14,434 per annum (plus GST);
- Special Activities - \$60.06 per hour (plus GST)

In line with the increase in the Consumer Price Index the rates, effective from 1 July 2020 will be -

- Ordinary Zone Business \$14,737 per annum (plus GST);
- Special Activities - \$61.32 per hour (plus GST).

RECOMMENDATION

That the adjustment to the Executive Officer annual and hourly rates for services to the Zone, in line with the Consumer Price Index, be noted.

RESOLUTION

Cr C Antonio moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –

That the adjustment to the Executive Officer annual and hourly rates for services to the Zone, in line with the Consumer Price Index, be noted.

CARRIED

9.4 Budget 2020/2021

Consideration of the Zone's budget and membership subscriptions for 2020/2021. Draft 2020/2021 budget is attached to the Agenda.

Notes on the draft budget –

Receipts

- It is proposed that the general subscription remain the same as last year - \$2,000.
- Allowance included for the Zone's share of surplus funds from the Wheatbelt Conference (see item 10.1).
- Local Government Agricultural Freight Group receipts include payments for 2019/2020 invoices received in 2020/2021.

Payments

- No allocation has been made for purchase of any equipment required to enable Zone meetings to incorporate video conferencing (see Item 10.3).
- No allocation made for attendance by the Executive Officer to the 2020 WA Local Government Convention – Convention not being held due to COVID-19.
- An allocation (\$7,000) has been made for representatives of the Zone to attend the 2021 National General Assembly of Local Government.
- No allocation has been made for any special projects or specific advocacy.
- No change has been made to the allocation for honorariums.

RECOMMENDATION

- That the Zone Budget for 2020/2021, as attached, be adopted.
- That the membership subscription for 2020/2021 be \$2,000.

RESOLUTION

Cr C Antonio moved and Cr R Madacsi seconded –

- **That the Zone Budget for 2020/2021, as attached, be adopted.**
- **That the membership subscription for 2020/2021 be \$2,000.**

CARRIED

10 ZONE BUSINESS

10.1 Wheatbelt Conference

BACKGROUND

The Wheatbelt Conference have been a collaborative arrangement between the Avon-Midland, Central and Great Eastern Country Zones. Conferences were held –

- 2012 – York (2 days)
- 2013 – Merredin (2 days)
- 2014 – York (2 days)
- 2015 – Kellerberrin (1 day)
- 2016 – Narrogin (2 days)
- 2017 – No conference held
- 2018 – Jurien Bay (2 days)

The Great Eastern Country Zone undertook the administrative and financial management for all the Conferences.

The Zone's August 2019 meeting considered the issue of the future of the Wheatbelt Conference. The Zone noted the resolutions of the other participating Zones –

Central Country Zone:

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

Great Eastern Country Zone:

That the Great Eastern Country Zone position on the Wheatbelt Conference be;

1. *There is value in holding Wheatbelt Conferences;*
2. *Not hold a Wheatbelt Conference in 2020 and look to hold a conference in 2021;*
3. *Request the three (3) Wheatbelt Zone Executive Committees to meet and discuss the future of Wheatbelt conferences during the 2019 Local Government convention*

The Executives of the three Zones meet and discussed the future of the Wheatbelt Conference at the 2019 Local Government Convention. The Central and Great Eastern Country Zones reiterated their positions. Representatives from the Great Eastern Country Zone were quite keen for the Conference to be held in 2021 with a revised format, the possible inclusion of elected member training and more input by the Zones into the content and speakers. The Central Country Zone representatives voiced the opinion that they did not see great value in continuation of the Conference but would look at any proposals for a Conference in 2021. The meeting agreed that the issue of organising a Wheatbelt Conference in 2021 be referred to each Zone to consider following the 2019 Local Government Elections.

At its August 2019 meeting the Avon-Midland Zone resolved to support the holding of the next Wheatbelt Conference in 2021 with a revised format to be determined in consultation with the Central and Great Eastern Country Zones.

COMMENT

At its February 2020 meeting the Central Country Zone resolved not to support future Wheatbelt Conferences.

In considering this matter the Central Country Zone noted that there was no doubt successive Wheatbelt Conferences have been of significant value to members of each of the three Zones but this had to be

weighed against potential costs and the burden on Zones. Factors identified to be taken into account included -

- Cost is major consideration in deciding the future of the Wheatbelt Conference, as is sufficient accommodation for delegates. These have always been major issues confronting the Executive Officers as they put programs and budgets together for consideration by the three Zones.
- The ability to attract ongoing and significant grant funding/sponsorship. Without external funding support it is unlikely that the Wheatbelt Conference can be financially sustainable.
- Change in Government policy allowing public servants to attend conferences such as the Wheatbelt Conference has reduced the potential non-sector attendees by 25-30%.
- The opportunity to hold conferences in a wider range of locations due to travel time for attendees and insufficient accommodation, especially when other events are happening in the same location.
- The capacity for the Zone's Executive Officers to undertake work required to plan and deliver a successful conference

The Central Country Zone has requested that its share of the surplus funds remaining after the 2018 Conference held by the Great Eastern Country Zone on behalf of the participating Zones be returned to the Zone. The surplus in the Convention Account is \$14,140.

With the withdrawal of the Central Country Zone from the Wheatbelt Conference and the unknown impact of COVID-19 on the organising of future conferences it is considered appropriate for future Wheatbelt Conferences not be held at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

- That the Zone note the advice from the Central Country Zone that it does not support the holding of future Wheatbelt Conferences;
- That the Zone agree that future Wheatbelt Conferences not be held at this time; and
- That the Zone requests its share of the surplus funds in the Convention Account held by the Great Eastern Country Zone on behalf of the participating Zones - \$4,713.33.

RESOLUTION

Cr S Carter moved and Cr C Antonio seconded –

- **That the Zone note the advice from the Central Country Zone that it does not support the holding of future Wheatbelt Conferences;**
- **That the Zone agree that a Wheatbelt Conference not be held at this time; and**
- **That the Zone requests its share of the surplus funds in the Convention Account held by the Great Eastern Country Zone on behalf of the participating Zones - \$4,713.33.**

CARRIED

The meeting noted comments that the Zone's participation in future reconstituted Wheatbelt Conferences not be precluded.

10.2 Noongar Heritage Agreement

BACKGROUND

The WA Local Government Association has advised that it has been working with the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) and Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) to develop a template Noongar Heritage Agreement for use by Local Governments within the area of the South West Native Title Settlement (SWNTS).

It is anticipated that the Draft Agreement will be circulated to State Council by Flying Minute for endorsement within the next week or two, and included as an Item for Noting on the next State Council Agenda.

COMMENT

The WA Local Government Association has asked if the Zone would be interested in having a representative from DPLH attend a Zone meeting and provide an overview of the template Agreement and an update on the progress of new Aboriginal heritage legislation for WA.

DPC are also available to attend to provide an update on the SWNTS and answer any questions the Zone may have on these matters generally.

Advise is sought as to interest from the Zone in having a presentation.

RECOMMENDATION
For Consideration

The meeting agreed to have a presentation on the template Noongar Heritage Agreement for use by Local Governments and an update on the progress of new Aboriginal heritage legislation in WA at its next meeting.

10.3 Zone Meeting Format

BACKGROUND

At the June 2020 meeting of the Zone a request was made that investigations be undertaken into whether video conferencing can be incorporated into in-person Zone meetings (hybrid meetings).

COMMENT

In preparing for this meeting the Shire of York advised that it had the capability at the York Recreation and Convention Centre to incorporate video conferencing via Zoom into the meeting.

Delegates may care to comment on the arrangements and whether it is an option for future meetings.

If hybrid meetings are to be considered for the future, consideration may need to be given to any equipment the Zone may need to acquire to facilitate this type of meeting. An internet connection at venues is a requirement and access would need to be provided by host local governments.

RECOMMENDATION
For Comment

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr R Madacsi seconded –

That the where possible, hybrid meetings be pursued for future meetings of the Zone.

CARRIED

11 URGENT BUSINESS (as permitted by the Presiding Member)

No matters were brought forward.

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 –

20 November 2020	Shire of Chittering
19 February 2021	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu

RECOMMENDATION

That the next ordinary meeting of the Zone be held Friday 20 November 2020 and be hosted by the Shire of Chittering.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr R Madacsi seconded –

That the next ordinary meeting of the Zone be held Friday 20 November 2020 and be hosted by the Shire of Chittering.

CARRIED

Cr S Carter left the meeting at 12:30 pm.

14 GUEST SPEAKER

14.1 Regional Early Education and Development

Presentation by Ms Helen Creed, Board Chair, Regional Early Education and Development. Following her presentation Ms Creed answered questions from delegates.

15 CLOSURE

There being no further business the President thanked attendees for their participation and the Shire of York for hosting the meeting and declared the meeting closed at 12:48 pm.

CERTIFICATION

These Minutes were confirmed by the meeting held on

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

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS
1 JULY 2020 TO 30 JUNE 2021

RECEIPTS		
	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Actual 2019/20</u>
Administration -		
Interest Earned	16	33
Member Subscriptions (@ \$2,000)	22,000	22,000
Conferences -		
Wheatbelt Conference - Share of Surplus Funds <i>Administered Through Great Eastern Country Zone</i>	4,713	0
Projects -		
Local Government Agricultural Freight Group	1,911	1,550
GST -		
Reimbursed by ATO	725	120
Collected on Sales	2,400	2,354
Adjustments & Rounding	0	1
	<u>3,125</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>\$31,765</u>	<u>\$26,058</u>

PAYMENTS		
	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Actual 2019/20</u>
Administration -		
Equipment	0	0
Secretarial Service	14,737	14,434
Meeting Expenses	250	216
Conferences -		
WA Local Government Convention	0	0
Australian National General Assembly of Local Government	7,000	0
Projects -		
Local Government Agricultural Freight Group	3,000	2,316
Other	0	0
Honorariums -		
Meeting Chairman	650	650
GST -		
Paid to ATO	2,400	2,354
Paid on Purchases	725	22
Adjustments & Rounding	0	1
	<u>3,125</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>\$28,762</u>	<u>\$19,992</u>

CASH SUMMARY		
	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Actual 2019/20</u>
Opening Balance	28,549	22,394
Plus Receipts	<u>31,765</u>	<u>26,058</u>
	60,314	48,451
Less Payments	<u>28,762</u>	<u>19,992</u>
Closing Balance	<u>\$31,552</u>	<u>\$28,459</u>