



# Northern Country Zone

# MINUTES

## Flying Minute Meeting

## WEDNESDAY 30 JUNE 2021



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## ATTACHMENTS TO THE AGENDA

- Item 6.1.1: Minutes of the NCZ Flying Minute Meeting 27 April 2021
- Item 6.1.2: Flying Minute 210510 – Change to June 2021 Meeting Date
- Item 6.1.3: Flying Minute 210629 – Change to 30 June In-person Meeting
- Item 7/8: State Council Agenda 7 July 2021
- Item 9.2: President's Report to the Zones July 2021
- Item 9.3: Zone Status Report June 2021
- Item 9.4: Midwest Mental Health Action Group Terms of Reference
- Item 10.1.2: a. Corro In - DLGSC Zone Update April/May 2021  
- DLGSC COVID 19 Response Presentation  
- DLGSC Redress Scheme Update Presentation  
b. Corro In - DLGSC Local Matters Newsletter April 2021  
c. Corro In - Chair Karen Chappel re May State Council Presentations  
d. Corro In - CWBA re Board Meeting
- Item 10.2 Bank Statements April/May 2021

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## 1. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### 1.1.1 Announcements

*Due to the snap COVID-19 lockdown of Perth and Peel from midnight Monday 28 June to Midnight Friday 2 July 2021 and the impact that had on the availability of some members, presenters and guests, members decided (by Flying Minute 210629) to hold the meeting by Flying Minute, instead of In-person. Refer Item 6.1.3 Confirmation of Minutes.*

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## 2. MEMBERS

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### MEMBERS

### NB: One Voting Delegate from each Member Council

#### Shire of Carnamah

Cr Merle Isbister - President  
Cr Dwayne Wooltorton - Deputy President  
Mr Vincent Fordham Lamont - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

#### Shire of Chapman Valley

Cr Anthony Farrell - President  
Cr Kirra Warr - Deputy President  
Mr Maurice Battilana - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

#### Shire of Coorow

Cr Moira Girando - President  
Cr Bruce Jack - Deputy President  
Ms Mia Maxfield - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

#### City of Greater Geraldton

Mayor Shane Van Styn  
Cr Tahleah Thomas - Deputy Mayor (NCZ Deputy Chair)  
Mr Ross McKim - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

<b>Shire of Irwin</b>	Cr Mike Smith - President Cr Ian West Mr Shane Ivers - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
<b>Shire of Mingenew</b>	Cr Gary Cosgrove, President Cr Justin Bagley Mr Nils Hay - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
<b>Shire of Morawa</b>	Cr Karen Chappel - President Mr Scott Wildgoose - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
<b>Shire of Northampton</b>	Cr Craig Simkin - President Cr Shane Krakouer - Deputy President Mr Garry Keeffe - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
<b>Shire of Perenjori</b>	Cr Chris King - President Mr Mario Romeo – Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
<b>Shire of Three Springs</b>	Cr Chris Lane - President Mr Keith Woodward - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
<b>EXECUTIVE</b>	Ms Dianne Daniels – NCZ Executive Officer

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### **3. PLANNED PRESENTATIONS RESCHEDULED**

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#### **3.1 Parliament of Western Australia**

Hon. John Carey MLA

Minister for Housing; Local Government

Minister Carey's vision for the Local Government portfolio.

*On Thursday 24 June 2021, prior to the meeting being changed from an In-person to a Flying Minute meeting, Minister Carey cancelled his planned visit to the Northern Country Zone 30 June 2021 meeting in favour of attending the West Australia 2021 Skills Summit. He hopes to re-schedule his visit and is looking to make a trip to the region in July to meet with as many councils as possible.*

#### **3.2 Regional Early Education and Development Inc (REED) (10:35am – 11:05am)**

Ms Wendy Newman

Board Member

A presentation on the sustainability of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) services in regional Western Australia - a challenge faced by many services over many years. REED is currently the Approved Provider for 19 services, several of which were previously directly provided by Shires. Services that have merged with REED have consistently identified issues such as lack of knowledge of awards and employer obligations, limited knowledge and experience in dealing with child care Legislation, Regulations, National Quality Standards and policy development, difficulties in attracting and retaining qualified staff and difficulties in attracting volunteers where services are operated by local management committees.

*The Executive Officer notified Ms Newman that members had changed the Northern Country Zone 30 June 2021 meeting from In-person to Flying Minute, due to the COVID-19 lockdown, and so effectively the meeting had*

been cancelled for invitees. The EO suggested that she could present at the 23 August 2021 meeting, if it fitted with her schedule. She is unable to attend but will check with other Board members.

### **3.3 DFES (11:05am – 11:35am)**

Mr Richard Burnell

Executive Director Corporate Services

A presentation on Telecommunications Resilience Improvement.

Mr Burnell notified the Executive Officer early on Tuesday 29 June that he would not be able to present at the 30 June 2021 Northern Country Zone meeting, as he was in Perth and under COVID lock down orders. He has pencilled in the 23 August 2021 meeting to do the presentation.

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## **4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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Pursuant to our Code of Conduct, Councillors must declare to the Chairperson any potential conflict of interest they have in a matter before the Zone as soon as they become aware of it. Councillors and deputies may be directly or indirectly associated with some recommendations of the Zone and State Council. If you are affected by these recommendations, please excuse yourself from the meeting and do not participate in deliberations.

Cr Merle Isbister declared an interest in Item 9.4.

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## **5. ADJOURNED BUSINESS**

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Nil

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## **6. MINUTES**

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*Attachments: Minutes of the NCZ (Flying Minute) Meeting 27 April 2021  
Flying Minute 210510 - Change to June 2021 Meeting Date  
Flying Minute 210629 – Change to 30 June In-person Meeting*

### **6.1 Confirmation of Minutes**

#### **6.1.1 Minutes of the (Flying Minute) Meeting 27 April 2021**

##### **Recommendation:**

That the Minutes of the (Flying Minute) Meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 27 April 2021 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

##### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Cr Merle Isbister

That the Minutes of the (Flying Minute) Meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 27 April 2021 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings

**Carried**

## 6.1.2 Minutes of Flying Minute 210510 – Change to June Meeting Date

### Recommendation:

That the Minutes of Flying Minute 210510 – Change to June 2021 Meeting Date, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

### Northern Country Zone Resolution:

**Moved:** Cr Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Cr Merle Isbister

That the Minutes of Flying Minute 210510 – Change to June 2021 Meeting Date, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

**Carried**

## 6.1.3 Minutes of Flying Minute 210629 – Change to 30 June In-person Meeting

### Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone meeting scheduled for 30 June 2021 be changed from an In-person meeting to a Flying Minute meeting, due to the snap COVID lockdown of Perth/Peel from midnight Monday 28 June to midnight Friday 2 July 2021.

### Northern Country Zone Resolution:

**Moved:** Cr Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Cr Merle Isbister

That the Northern Country Zone meeting scheduled for 30 June 2021 be changed from an In-person meeting to a Flying Minute meeting, due to the snap COVID lockdown of Perth/Peel from midnight Monday 28 June to midnight Friday 2 July 2021.

**Carried**

## 6.2 Business Arising from Minutes

### 6.2.1 Coordinated Corella Control Working Group – Invitation to Attend CWBA Board Meeting

*Prepared By: Dianne Daniels, Executive officer*

*Attachment: Refer attachment 10.1.2d Email from CWBA*

### Recommendation:

That one or more members of the Coordinated Corella Control Working Group attend the Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association Board meeting on Monday 26 July 2021 in Dalwallinu commencing at 9:30am and report back to NCZ on the meeting.

### Comment:

Following receipt of correspondence at Item 9.1.2c of the 27 April 2021 meeting, the invitation to members of the Coordinated Corella Control Working Group to attend the Monday 26 July 2021 Board meeting of the CWBA was confirmed by email on 8 June 2021 – refer attachment.

### Northern Country Zone Resolution:

**Moved:** Cr Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Cr Merle Isbister

That one or more members of the Coordinated Corella Control Working Group attend the Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association Board meeting on Monday 26 July 2021 in Dalwallinu commencing at 9:30am and report back to NCZ on the meeting.

**Carried**

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## 7. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION

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Attachment: State Council Agenda 7 July 2021

*The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 7 July 2021.*

*The Matters for Decision in the State Council agenda are numbered 5.1 to 5.2*

*The Recommendation and Brief only have been included. Please refer to the attached PDF version of the State Council Agenda for more detail.*

### 7.1 (5.1) Reviews of the *Cat Act 2011* and *Dog Act 1976* (05-034-01-0001 JM)

Prepared by: James McGovern, Manager Governance and Procurement

#### **Recommendation:**

That WALGA seek a commitment from the State Government:

1. for the conduct of comprehensive reviews of the *Cat Act 2011* and *Dog Act 1976*; and
2. that the reviews incorporate Local Government-specific consultation processes, coordinated in discussion with WALGA and Local Government stakeholders.

#### **Executive Summary:**

- The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries released the *Statutory Review of the Cat Act 2011 and Dog Amendment Act 2013 Report* in December 2019;
- A number of Local Governments, Zones and VROCs have requested that this statutory review progress to a full review of both Acts, with a particular emphasis on the *Cat Act*;
- In February 2021, WALGA's Governance Policy Team endorsed a recommendation that State Council seek this commitment from the State Government.

#### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Cr Merle Isbister

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.1.

**Carried**

### 7.2 (5.2) Amendments to WALGA's Constitution (01-001-01-0001 TL)

Prepared by: Tim Lane, Manager Strategy and Association Governance

#### **Recommendation:**

That the WALGA Constitution be amended as follows:

1. INSERT Definition – "*Present*" means attendance in person or by electronic means deemed suitable by the Chief Executive Officer.
2. Clause 5 (10) – DELETE "and Associate Members".
3. Clause 5 (11) – DELETE "Ordinary Member or", REPLACE "State Council" with "Chief Executive Officer" in the first sentence, INSERT "or its delegate" after State Council in the second sentence.
4. Clause 6 (3) – REPLACE "31 May" with "30 June".
5. Clause 7 (2) – REPLACE "30 June" with "31 July".
6. Clause 11 (1) – after Chief Executive Officer, INSERT "in accordance with the Corporate Governance Charter".

7. Clause 11 (2) – after Chief Executive Officer INSERT “by providing notice to State Councillors of the date, time, place and purpose of the meeting”
8. DELETE Clause 11 (3)
9. Clause 12 (1) – DELETE “as, being entitled to do so, vote in person”
10. DELETE Clause 12 (2)
11. Clause 12 (3) – DELETE “as, being entitled to do so, vote in person”
12. Clause 12 (4) – DELETE “as, being entitled to do so, vote in person”
13. Clause 16 (1) & (2) – After Any election INSERT “other than to elect the President or Deputy President”, REPLACE “generally in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1995* as amended (2) For the purposes of the election referred to in sub-section (1)” with “as follows”.
14. Clause 16 (2) (f) – REPLACE two instances of “2” with “1”.
15. INSERT Clause 16A – Election Procedure – President and Deputy President
  - (1) An election to elect the President or Deputy President shall be conducted as follows:
    - (a) the Chief Executive Officer or his/her delegate shall act as returning officer;
    - (b) representatives are to vote on the matter by secret ballot;
    - (c) votes are to be counted on the basis of “first-past-the-post”;
    - (d) the candidate who receives the greatest number of votes is elected;
    - (e) if there is an equality of votes between two or more candidates who are the only candidates in, or remaining in, the count, the count is to be discontinued, and the meeting adjourned for not more than 30 minutes;
    - (f) any nomination for the office may be withdrawn, and further nominations may be made, before or when the meeting resumes;
    - (g) when the meeting resumes, an election will be held in accordance with sub-sections 1(a), 1(b), 1(c) and 1 (d);
    - (h) if two or more candidates receive the same number of votes so that sub-section 1(d) cannot be applied, the Chief Executive Officer is to draw lots in the presence of any scrutineers who may be present to determine which candidate is elected.
16. Clause 21 (4) – REPLACE “Chairman” with “Chair”.
17. Clause 22 (1) – REPLACE “in August or September of” with “prior to 31 October”.
18. Clause 22 (3) – DELETE “in person”
19. DELETE Clause 22 (4) (b).
20. Clause 23 (3) – DELETE “in person”
21. Clause 24 (2) – DELETE “and of which vote is to be exercised in person”
22. Clause 24 (4) – DELETE “as, being entitled to do so, vote in person”
23. Clause 28 (1) – DELETE “The common seal shall be held in the custody of the Chief Executive Officer at all times.”
24. Clause 29 (1) – DELETE “as, being entitled to do so, vote in person”
25. Clause 29 (2) – DELETE “as, being entitled to do so, vote in person”
26. Clause 31 (4) (c) – DELETE “and Regional Development”.

Voting Requirement: SPECIAL MAJORITY

#### **Executive Summary:**

- A number of amendments are proposed to the WALGA Constitution;
- Amendments are necessary:
  - To remove requirements for delegates to attend annual and special general meetings in person; and
  - As a result of WALGA’s change of financial year end to 30 June, from the previous 31 May year end.
- Other amendments are proposed to:
  - Allow a second vote to be conducted if two candidates tie in an election for President or Deputy President;
  - Clarify the application process for Ordinary and Associate Members;
  - Simplify the process for providing notice of State Council meetings;
  - Allow motions at Special State Council meetings to be passed with a simple, as opposed to absolute, majority, except as required elsewhere in the Constitution, such as the absolute majority requirement to adopt the budget; and,
  - Tidy up outdated wording.



- Amendments to the Constitution require a Special Majority of State Council and a Special Majority at a General Meeting;
- Consequently, these Constitutional Amendments will also be put to the 20 September 2021 Annual General Meeting.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Cr Merle Isbister

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.2.

**Carried**

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## **8. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION**

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*Attachment: State Council Agenda 7 July 2021*

***The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 7 July 2021.***

***The Matters for Noting/Information in the State Council agenda are numbered 6.1 to 6.9.***

***The Recommendation and Brief only have been included. Please refer to the attached PDF version of the State Council Agenda for more detail.***

### **8.1 (6.1) Submission to Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform (01-006-02-0010 TL)**

*Prepared by: Tim Lane, Manager Strategy and Association Governance*

**Recommendation:**

That the Submission to the Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform be noted.

**Executive Summary:**

- The Minister for Electoral Affairs, Hon John Quigley MLA, has announced the formation of a Ministerial Expert Committee to take submissions and make recommendations to Government to reform the Legislative Council electoral system.
- To facilitate the development of a WALGA submission to the Ministerial Expert Committee, the WALGA President established a Policy Forum of State Councillors that met twice during May 2021.
- The Policy Forum:
  1. Considered a [background paper](#) and the Expert Committee's [discussion paper](#),
  2. Discussed key issues with ABC Election Analyst, Antony Green,
  3. Considered a range of models, ultimately recommending a preferred model, and
  4. Shaped the arguments put forward in the submission.
- Following the Policy Forum's deliberative process, a submission was put forward for State Council consideration at the 2 June 2021 special meeting of State Council.
- Following a number of amendments, the final submission was endorsed via Flying Minute on Friday, 4 June.

### **8.2 (6.2) Legal Response to the Coastal Hazard Planning Issues Paper (05-036-03-0065 AR)**

*Prepared by: Ashley Robb, Senior Policy Advisor, Planning*

**Recommendation:**

That the update on the *Legal Response to the Local Government Coastal Hazard Planning Issues Paper (2021)* be noted.

**Executive Summary:**

- The *Legal Response to the Coastal Hazard Planning Issues Paper (2021)* is a certified legal response to questions outlined in the *Coastal Hazard Planning Issues Paper (2019)*.
- The legal response will be useful for Local Governments preparing and revising Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plans (CHRMAs), which Local Governments are required to prepare under *State Planning Policy 2.6: State Coastal Planning Policy*.
- The legal response is a confidential document owned by the organisations who contributed funding and resources to seek the advice; 28 Local Governments, WALGA and LGIS.
- The project is estimated to have saved the sector approximately \$1.3 million in legal fees, had each participating Local Government sought independent legal advice.

**8.3 (6.3) WALGA Submission: Child Safety Officer (05-065-03-006 BW)**

*Prepared by: Bec Waddington, Policy Officer, Resilient Communities*

**Recommendation:**

That the submission to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and the Department of Communities in response to the *Discussion Paper On The Implementation Of Child Safety Officers In Local Governments* be noted.

**Executive Summary:**

- The State Government is consulting on the proposed implementation of child safety officers within Local Government, which is a recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Recommendation 6.12).
- WALGA hosted a series of online discussions to gather feedback from Local Governments and encouraged Local Governments to make individual submissions.
- WALGA has made a number of recommendations, including the establishment of a State and Local Government working group to guide future consultation and policy development.
- The submission was endorsed by State Council via flying minute on 31 March 2021 and was provided to DLGSC on 1 April 2021. It is anticipated the State will release a findings paper in June and following this, invite WALGA to participate in a focus group to assist in the policy development.

**8.4 (6.4) State Planning Policy 3.1 Residential Design Codes Volume 1 – Medium Density Code (05-015-02-002 CH)**

*Prepared by: Chris Hossen, Policy Manager, Planning and Building*

**Recommendation:**

That the endorsed submission on the interim review of State Planning Policy 3.1 Residential Design Codes Volume 1 Medium Density Code be noted.

**Executive Summary:**

- On 27 November 2020, the WA Planning Commission (WAPC) released the draft State Planning Policy 3.1 Volume 1: Medium Density Code (Medium Density Code) for public comment. The comment period closed on 16 April 2021.
- The submission was presented to the People and Place Policy Team on 1 April 2021 and subsequently endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute.

## **8.5 (6.5) Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (01-006-03-0008 RNB)**

*Prepared by: Rebecca Brown, Manager, Waste & Recycling*

### **Recommendation:**

That State Council note the resolutions of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council at its 28 April 2021 meeting.

### **Executive Summary:**

- This item summaries the outcomes of the MWAC meeting held on 28 April 2021.

## **8.6 (6.6) Local Government Performance Monitoring Project (05-047-01-0011 CH)**

*Prepared by: Chris Hossen, Policy Manager, Planning and Building*

### **Recommendation:**

That the results of the *Local Government Performance Monitoring Report (2019/2020)* be noted.

### **Executive Summary:**

- In 2018, WALGA initiated the Local Government Performance Monitoring Project and through this project prepared the *Local Government Performance Monitoring Report (2018)*. This report demonstrates the planning and building performance of 11 Local Governments during the 2016/17 financial year. WALGA has continued and expanded the Project producing subsequent reports in 2019, 2020.
- This new report: *Local Government Performance Monitoring Report (2021)* demonstrates the planning and building performance of 29 Local Governments from across Western Australia during the 2019/20 financial year.
- The report indicates that Local Governments continue to provide efficient and effective management of their planning and building regulatory functions.

## **8.7 (6.7) Review of Fire Weather Districts (05-024-03-0004 SM)**

*Prepared by: Susie Moir, Policy Manager Resilient Communities*

### **Recommendation:**

That State Council note information regarding the consultation on the review of the Western Australian Fire Weather Districts (FWD) being conducted by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM).

### **In Brief:**

- Issues have been identified with the current West Australian Fire Weather Districts.
- DFES and BOM through the Interagency Bushfire Operations Committee Australian Fire Danger Rating System Subcommittee has determined that the new ADFRS presents an appropriate opportunity to review and update the current Fire Weather Districts.
- A working group comprising DFES and BoM representatives are managing the consultation and review process.

## **8.8 (6.8) 2021-22 State Budget Submission Approach (05-001-03-0006 DM)**

*Prepared by: Dana Mason, Principal, Economics and Strategic Projects*

### **Recommendation:**

That the approach for the 2021-22 State Budget Submission, which was endorsed via flying minute be noted.

### Executive Summary:

- Each year, WALGA prepares a submission to the State Government outlining the sector's priorities for the upcoming budget.
- The attached presentation outlines WALGA's proposed approach to this submission, based on the current economic and political environment.
- It is proposed that WALGA has the best chance of achieving funding by putting forward a targeted list of initiatives that are aligned with Government priorities, and deliver a demonstrated return for the State and Community.
- The Association's approach to the State Budget Submission was endorsed by State Council on 21 May 2021 via Flying Minute.
- The final submission will be provided to State Council for endorsement in mid-June.

### **8.9 (6.9) Managing Public Health Risks from Wastewater Conveyance, Treatment and Disposal in WA (05-031-01-0001 MM)**

*Prepared by: Marissa MacDonald, Senior Policy Advisor, Community*

### Recommendation:

That the submission to the Department of Health in response to the Managing Public Health Risks from Wastewater Conveyance, Treatment and Disposal in WA consultation be noted.

### Executive Summary:

- On Thursday, 18 February the Department of Health released the "Managing Public Health Risks from Wastewater Conveyance, Treatment and Disposal in Western Australia" discussion paper for public comment.
- There are 19 Local Governments which manage wastewater schemes that are currently exempt from licensing under the *Water Services Act 2012* ('19 Local Government wastewater managers').
- The discussion paper presents three options for the *future regulation of wastewater conveyance, treatment and disposal*. The majority of Local Government responses received by WALGA support Option 3 - the development of new regulations largely based on the existing regulations with minor amendments, including training requirements and accreditation of Site and Soil Evaluators.
- Feedback indicated that Local Governments do not support the full adoption of the Australian Standards AS/NZS1547 in the new regulations as there is limited evidence in the discussion paper to support its adoption.
- The discussion paper presents three options for the *future management of wastewater systems*. WALGA received limited feedback from the 19 Local Government wastewater managers, and as such does not have a definitive position on the three options presented in the discussion paper.
- WALGA recommends that the Department of Health engage further with Local Government when developing any new regulations.
- The submission was endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute on 2 June 2021.

### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Cr Merle Isbister

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes State Council Agenda Items 6.1 to 6.9.

**Carried**

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## 9. REPORTS

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### 9.1 Zone Chair/State Councillor's Report

Northern Country Zone of WALGA  
Chairs Report June 2021

Thank you to everyone in our Zone who so warmly welcomed WALGA President Mayor Roberts, Nick Sloane CEO WALGA, Jonathan Seth CEO of LGIS and myself on our recent tour of the Mid West. It was a great few days and very much enjoyed by each of us.

The last couple of months has been full of Cyclone Seroja recovery for all of our Councils - a difficult task with the need to get on with business as usual. We all know that the recovery will be lengthy; we need to make sure we work with each other and support each community as needs arise. It is going to be different for each Council; please remember to contact Nick Sloan at WALGA if you have any issues that cannot be resolved locally as Nick is on the State Emergency Committee and can take your matter to the table.

WALGA State Council endorsed a submission to the Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform. A working group made up of both metropolitan and non-metropolitan members considered this matter and a final report was endorsed by State Council.

As outlined in my email to members, Minister Carey and Auditor General Spencer attended our State Council meeting in May. State Council was very encouraged by the open door and pragmatic approach offered by both the Minister and Ms Spencer.

Our Executive Officer has asked whether the Northern Country Zone wishes to hold a Conference of our own next year. Can I ask that you consider this and we can discuss at the meeting.

I am off to the ALGA Board meeting tomorrow and then the ALGA National General Assembly. I will give you a brief at the meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

The WALGA convention registrations are open and I encourage you to attend and to bring as many Councillors as your budget allows.

As always please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns.

Karen Chappel

<b>Northern Country Zone Resolution:</b>
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<b>Moved:</b> Cr Anthony Farrell
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<b>Seconded:</b> Cr Merle Isbister
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That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the June 2021 report from the Chair/State Councillor.
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<b>Carried</b>
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### 9.2 WALGA President's Report

The WALGA President's Report to the Zone for July 2021 is attached to the Agenda.

<b>Northern Country Zone Resolution:</b>
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<b>Moved:</b> Cr Anthony Farrell
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<b>Seconded:</b> Cr Merle Isbister
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The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the July 2021 WALGA President's Report to the Zone.
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<b>Carried</b>
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### **9.3 Zone Status Report**

A Status Report outlining the actions taken on the Zone's resolutions is attached.

#### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Cr Merle Isbister

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the June 2021 Status Report outlining actions taken on the Zone's resolutions.

**Carried**

### **9.4 Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group Report transforming to Midwest Mental Health Action Group**

*Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer*

*Attachment: Midwest Mental Health Action Group Terms of Reference*

#### **Recommendation:**

That Cr Merle Isbister be endorsed as a Standing Invitee with the Midwest Mental Health Action Group to represent the Northern Country Zone of WALGA.

#### **Background:**

Over the last three years, WACHS Mental Health and WAPHA have been co-Chairing a Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group that served to support the state Suicide Prevention initiatives - including regional postvention coordination - and the federal Suicide Prevention Trial.

The Northern Country Zone's Standing Invitee to the Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group is Merle Isbister.

#### **Comment:**

The Suicide Prevention Trial ends in two weeks and current members decided that the Steering Group should become more action-oriented and broadened the scope to address mental health, given that a local mental health network no longer exists. They have re-branded as the Midwest Mental Health Action Group.

As an existing standing invitee with the Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group, the new Midwest Mental Health Action Group has asked Cr Isbister to become a standing invitee with the new Group, on behalf of the Northern Country Zone.

#### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Cr Merle Isbister

The Cr Merle Isbister be endorsed as a Standing Invitee with the Midwest Mental Health Action Group to represent the Northern Country Zone of WALGA.

**Carried**

### **9.5 CA07 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition Working Group**

The Northern Country Zone's representative on the CA07 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition Working Group is Gary Cosgrove.

Nil to report

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## **10. ZONE MATTERS FOR NOTING/DECISION**

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### **10.1 Correspondence**

#### **10.1.1 Correspondence Out**

Nil

#### **10.1.2 Correspondence In**

##### **10.1.2 (a) 20/04/2021 DLGSC**

*Attachment: Email from Liz Toohey (forwarded to Members 21/04/2021)*

An email including a link to the DLGSC April/May 2021 Zone Update and with two attachments – a presentation on the COVID 19 Response and a presentation on the Redress Scheme.

##### **10.1.2 (b) 21/04/2021 DLGSC**

*Attachment: Email from Liz Toohey (forwarded to Members 26/04/2021)*

An email with a link to the DLGSC Local Matters April 2021 newsletter.

##### **10.1.2 (c) 09/05/2021 Chair Karen Chappel**

*Attachment: Email from Chair Chappel (emailed to Members by Chair Chappel)*

An email reporting on the addresses by Minister John Carey and Auditor General Caroline Spencer at the 5 May 2021 State Council Meeting.

##### **10.1.2 (d) 08/06/2021 Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association (CWBA)**

*Attachment: Email from Executive Officer Linda Vernon*

Confirmation of the invitation to members of the NCZ Coordinated Corella Control Working Group to attend the next CWBA Board meeting in Dalwallinu on 26 July 2021, from 9:30am to 1:00pm.

#### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Cr Merle Isbister

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives Correspondence In at Item 10.1.2 (a) to 10.1.2 (d).

**Carried**

### **10.2 Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 31 May 2021**

*Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer*

*Attachments: Bank Statements April/May 2021*

#### **Recommendation:**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 May 2021.

**Comments:**

The Detailed Income Statement shown below represents the cash position of NCZ at 31 May, as reconciled to the Bank Statement.

<b>NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA</b>				
<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT</b>				
<i>For the period ending</i>				
<b>31-May-21</b>				
	<i>Date</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Description</i>
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-20		21,130.81	
Deposits			10,000.00	2020-21 Membership Subscriptions x 10
			1.71	Interest received
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>			<b>10,001.71</b>	
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>			<b>31,132.52</b>	
Payments Made	03-07-20		-2,805.66	Internet tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 202101 - EO services 01/05/2020 - 01/07/2020; Travel expenses
	05-08-20		-275.00	Internet tsf - North Midlands Accounting Service - Inv 2021-000003 - Audit Report for Year Ended 30 June 2020
	27-08-20		-408.24	BPay - Shire of Mingenew - Inv 9161 - Reimburse Catering for NCZ Meeting 22/06/2020
	27-08-20		-2,877.84	Internet tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 202102 - EO services 02/07/2020 - 25/08/2020; Travel/Stationery expenses
	30-11-20		-2,805.66	Internet tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 202103 - EO services 26/08/2020 - 26/11/2020; Travel
	04-01-21		-55.00	Internet tsf - Norris & Hyde IT - Inv 31842 - Domain name renewal 2 yrs
	02-03-21		-2,825.66	Internet tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 202104 - EO Services 27/11/2020 - 24/02/2021; Travel/Reimburse Water
	31-03-21		-303.18	BPay - Shire of Mingenew - Inv 9430 - Reimburse Catering for NCZ Meeting 22/02/2021
	21-05-21		-2,600.00	Chq 373 - Dianne Daniels - In 202105 - EO Services 25/02/2021 - 28/04/2021
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE</b>			<b>-14,956.24</b>	
<b>Closing Cash Balance</b>	<b>31-05-21</b>		<b>16,176.28</b>	

<b>NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA</b>				
<b>BANK RECONCILIATION SUMMARY</b>				
<i>For the period ending</i>				
<b>31-May-21</b>				
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-20		21,130.81	
Deposits and Credits			10,001.71	
Cheques and Payments			-14,956.24	
<b>Total Cleared Transactions</b>	<b>31-05-21</b>		<b>16,176.28</b>	
Add back o/s			0.00	
<b>Reconciled Balance</b>			<b>16,176.28</b>	
<b>Bank Statement</b>	<b>31-05-21</b>		<b>16,176.28</b>	
<b>Difference I&amp;E to Bank Statement</b>			<b>0.00</b>	

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**  
**Moved:** Cr Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Cr Merle Isbister

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 May 2021.

**Carried**



### 10.3 Northern Country Zone Budget 2021-2022

Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer

#### Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA adopts the Budget 2021-2022, as presented, including membership fees of \$1,000 per member.

#### Background:

Item 13 of the Constitution calls for a Budget to be prepared annually and presented to the Zone for approval no later than 30 June prior to the financial year to which it relates.

<b>NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA</b>			
<b>BUDGET</b>			
<i>For the period</i>			
<b>1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022</b>			
	<i>Date</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Cash Balance	31 May 2021		16,176.28
Payments	Reimburse Mingenew catering Aug/Nov 2020	say	-900.00
<b>Cash Balance B/F</b>	1 July 2021		15,276.28
<b>Deposits</b>			
Membership Fees	10 x \$1,000		10,000.00
Bank Interest Received			2.50
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>			<b>10,002.50</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>			<b>25,278.78</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Audit			-300.00
Executive Officer Services			-13,000.00
Executive Officer Travel	4 meetings x \$206		-824.00
Office Supplies			-300.00
IT Support	Biennial Fee Domain Name (paid \$55 4/1/2021)		0.00
	Annual Fee Mail Box		-75.00
Catering for Meetings	4 x \$450		-1,800.00
Allow for NCZ Forum	Venue Hire		-650.00
	Staff		-500.00
	Catering User Pays except say 6 guests x \$50		-300.00
	EO additional activities (24hrs x \$50)		-1,200.00
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>			<b>-18,949.00</b>
<b>Closing Cash Balance</b>	30 June 2022		<b>6,329.78</b>

#### Northern Country Zone Resolution:

**Moved:** Cr Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Cr Merle Isbister

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA adopts the 2021-2022 Budget, as presented, including membership fees of \$1,000 per member.

**Carried**

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## **11. GENERAL BUSINESS**

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As per Item 35 of the Zone Standing Orders, a Delegate may under General Business introduce a motion relating to any item of interest to Local Government, but not otherwise.

### **11.1 Regional Issues**

#### **Background:**

As per the resolution at Item 9.1 of the February 2018 minutes, Regional Issues are open for discussion.

*None received*

### **11.2 Regional Tourism Initiatives**

#### **Background:**

As per the resolution at Item 10.1 of the April 2019 minutes, Regional Tourism Initiatives are open for discussion.

*None received*

### **11.3 Other General Business**

#### **11.3.1 Review of South West Interconnected System (SWIS) Power Network North of Three Springs - 27 April 2021**

*Prepared By: City of Greater Geraldton*

#### **Recommendation:**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA supports the City of Greater Geraldton's resolution at Item 13 of its 27 April 2021 Ordinary Meeting to:

1. CALL on the State Government to:
  - a. Urgently review the power network (SWIS) north of Three Springs;
  - b. Upgrade the existing 132kV line from Three Springs to Geraldton to 330kV;
  - c. Advise why Mungarra was not operational sooner;
  - d. Advise the future of Mungarra and what other contingency plans can be activated should severe power disruptions re-occur;
  - e. Give stronger consideration to how local, existing and new generational capacity (especially but not only from renewable sources) can better be deployed in times of need;
  - f. Explain what plans it has to facilitate major industry, including the further development of renewable and hydrogen energy in the Mid West, given the 132kV line from Three Springs to Geraldton is effectively at capacity;
  - g. Fast track the establishment of microgrids in Geraldton and fringe of grid communities;
  - h. Accelerate the installation of stand alone systems on farms most susceptible to power outages;
  - i. Request Western Power and telecommunications providers to work together to ensure telecommunications are functional (from a power perspective) when the electricity network is significantly disrupted;
2. SEEK the support of this Motion by the Northern Country Zone of WALGA; and
3. MAKES the determination on the following grounds:
  - a. Recent prolonged power outages caused by Tropical Cyclone Seroja highlight the inadequacy and fragility of the existing power network.

#### **Background:**

At the City of Greater Geraldton Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 27 April 2021, a Notice of Motion was tabled requesting an urgent review of the region's electricity network following the recent Cyclone Seroja that hit the Mid West on 11 April 2021. The City has written to the Minister for Energy seeking a meeting, but also seeks support from the Northern Country Zone for this motion.

*The Shire of Northampton have asked that the following comment be noted at this item:  
All microgrids must have diesel generation backup power as microgrids will not last in long power outages.*

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Cr Merle Isbister

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA supports the City of Greater Geraldton's resolution at Item 13 of its 27 April 2021 Ordinary Meeting to:

1. CALL on the State Government to:
  - a. Urgently review the power network (SWIS) north of Three Springs;
  - b. Upgrade the existing 132kV line from Three Springs to Geraldton to 330kV;
  - c. Advise why Mungarra was not operational sooner;
  - d. Advise the future of Mungarra and what other contingency plans can be activated should severe power disruptions re-occur;
  - e. Give stronger consideration to how local, existing and new generational capacity (especially but not only from renewable sources) can better be deployed in times of need;
  - f. Explain what plans it has to facilitate major industry, including the further development of renewable and hydrogen energy in the Mid West, given the 132kV line from Three Springs to Geraldton is effectively at capacity;
  - g. Fast track the establishment of microgrids in Geraldton and fringe of grid communities;
  - h. Accelerate the installation of stand alone systems on farms most susceptible to power outages;
  - i. Request Western Power and telecommunications providers to work together to ensure telecommunications are functional (from a power perspective) when the electricity network is significantly disrupted;
2. SEEK the support of this Motion by the Northern Country Zone of WALGA; and
3. MAKES the determination on the following grounds:
  - a. Recent prolonged power outages caused by Tropical Cyclone Seroja highlight the inadequacy and fragility of the existing power network.

**Carried**

### **11.3.2 OAG - Audit Of Department Regulation And Support To The Sector**

*Prepared by: Shire of Perenjori*

**Recommendation:**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA supports the Shire of Perenjori's endeavours:

1. That the State Government be requested to adequately resource the Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries to enable it to appropriately deliver on its obligations and responsibilities to the sector.
2. That the State Government be requested to address the increased funding of the Department of Local Government as part of the coming State Budget.

**Background:**

At the Shire of Perenjori Ordinary meeting held on 17 June 2021, at Urgent Business Item 22.1.2, Council resolved to seek the support of the Northern Country Zone in its request to the State Government to adequately resource the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries as part of the coming State Budget.

**Comment:**

The Shire of Perenjori recently considered the Auditor General's report on the performance of the Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries in delivering effective regulation and support to the Local Government sector and was concerned that the report findings indicate failure and poor performance in a number of the Department's statutory requirements, ultimately concluding that effective regulation and support is not being delivered.

The Auditor General's report demonstrates how the actions – or inactions – of the Department can impact on the capacity of individual local governments to comply with accountability requirements through no fault of their own.

It has long been acknowledged throughout the sector that the Department is under resourced to deliver effective capacity building and support to the sector and the Auditor General's report substantially vindicates this view. Whilst blame and criticism are easy responses to make to the report, from our perspective a more productive approach would be to offer support to the Minister in seeking to obtain increased resources within the State Budget to enable the Department to function properly and thereby deliver more effective and useful support to the sector.

In this time of pandemics and extreme weather events the community needs progressive and capable government administration at all levels. The historically narrow focus of the Department of Local Government on regulation and control is not appropriate for 21<sup>st</sup> Century local government.

Whilst the departmental response to the report is a universal claim that compliance will be achieved by August, the reality is that the sector needs more than simple compliance from the Department. An increased effort is required, particularly in relation to capacity building and support to the sector. There needs to be a refocussing of the Department around enhancing the capacity of local governments and providing support and development opportunities for elected members to enable them to better execute their roles and responsibilities. The resources necessary to bring this about should be a priority response from government in the State Budget.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Cr Merle Isbister

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA supports the Shire of Perenjori's endeavours:

1. That the State Government be requested to adequately resource the Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries to enable it to appropriately deliver on its obligations and responsibilities to the sector.
2. That the State Government be requested to address the increased funding of the Department of Local Government as part of the coming State Budget.

**Carried**

### 11.3.3 Late Item – LGIS Cyclone Insurance Excess

*Prepared by: Shire of Chapman Valley*

**Recommendation:**

That WALGA advocates to LGIS to reduce the Insurance Policy Excess amount for LGA's affected by TC Seroja as a way to contribute to helping those communities in the recovery from the event.

**Comment:**

The current LGIS Insurance Policy excess amount of \$100,000 is very high and will be difficult to accommodate in the Shire budgets.

An informal approach has been made by the Shire of Chapman Valley (and other LGAs I believe) to LGIS seeking a reduction in this excess amount from \$100,000 to \$50,000 with the response being this cannot happen.

It would be appreciated if the NCZ would promote the excess reduction through the WALGA State Council to LGIS to assist the LGAs affected by TC Seroja as a way to contribute to helping these communities in the recovery from this event.

*All member councils who voted endorsed this item. The Shire of Three Springs asked that their concern regarding the LGIS Cyclone Insurance excess of \$100k be tabled. The Excess is very high for small Shires and challenging to manage in the Shire budgets.*

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Cr Merle Isbister

That WALGA advocates to LGIS to reduce the Insurance Policy Excess amount for LGA's affected by TC Seroja as a way to contribute to helping those communities in the recovery from the event.

**Carried**

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**12. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

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**Recommendation:**

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held on Monday 23 August 2021, commencing at 10 am, at the Mingenew Sports Pavilion.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Anthony Farrell

**Seconded:** Cr Merle Isbister

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held on Monday 23 August 2021, commencing at 10:00 am, at the Mingenew Sports Pavilion.

**Carried**

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**13. MEETING CLOSURE**

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Meeting declared closed at 12 noon.