



Gascoyne Country Zone

Minutes

10:00am

Friday, 26 August 2022

**Meeting hosted by
MS Teams**

Gascoyne Country Zone

Held via MS Teams, commenced at 10:00am, Friday, 26 August 2022

Acknowledgement of Country

We, the delegates of the Gascoyne Country Zone acknowledge the traditional owners of this land that we are meeting on today and pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

Minutes

ATTENDEES

Shire of Carnarvon	President Eddie Smith Andrea Selvey, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Exmouth	Cr Jackie Brooks (Deputy) Ben Lewis, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Upper Gascoyne	John McCleary, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Shark Bay	President Cr Cheryl Cowell – Chair Dale Chapman, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
WALGA	Mark Bondietti, Policy Manager Transport and Roads Jade Mains, Senior Policy Officer Environment Sarah Twyford, Graduate Policy Officer Environment

GUESTS

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries	Angele Gray, Regional Manager Mid-West Gascoyne Darcey Bosch, Senior Legislative Policy Officer – LG
Gascoyne Development Commission	Tym Duncanson, Chief Executive Officer
Main Roads	Andrea Pitcher, A/Asset Management Officer Y Gaff Murray, Operations Manager - Carnarvon

APOLOGIES

Roadwise	Ms Samantha Adams
Regional Development Australia – Mid West Gascoyne	Mark Holdsworth, Executive Officer
Shire of Upper Gascoyne	President Cr Don Hammarquist OAM OP
Gascoyne Development Commission	Simmone Van Buerle, Director Regional Development Gavin Shearing, Principal Regional Development Officer

Attachments

The following were provided as attachments to the agenda:

1. Previous Meeting Minutes – 24 June 2022 Meeting
2. President's Report

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nil.

3. DEPUTATIONS

Nil.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 Minutes of the 24 June 2022 Meeting of the Gascoyne Country Zone

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Eddie Smith
Seconded: Cr Jackie Brooks

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Gascoyne Country Zone held on 24 June 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

5.2 Business Arising

Nil.

6. ZONE BUSINESS

6.1 Solar Eclipse 2023

Shire of Exmouth

Update was provided by the Shire of Exmouth CEO, Ben Lewis.

6.2 Review of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007: Consideration of WALGA Discussion Paper

By Rebecca Brown, Manager Environment and Waste, WALGA

BACKGROUND

The first 10-year [statutory review](#) of the [Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007](#) (BAM Act) is currently underway; this is a key opportunity for Local Government to influence the how post-border biosecurity is managed in Western Australia.

The [Independent Panel](#) undertaking the review, is using a three-stage engagement process:

- Stage 1 (closed) - open submissions and a survey to identify major themes and issues
- Stage 2 - stage 1 will 'provide the foundation for participatory processes to further explore themes and issues'
- Stage 3 - broader engagement to get feedback on the findings and potential solutions, expected to take place in late 2022/early 2023.

The Independent Panel is required to make its report, including any recommended amendments to the Act, to the Minister for Agriculture and Food by March 2023.

WALGA prepared a [Discussion Paper](#) to inform comment on the Review, which includes 11 key biosecurity themes and related recommendations reflecting issues raised by Local Government, and those identified in the [Auditor General's 2013 and 2020 Reports](#).

Policy Implications

WALGA's current Policy Position on Biosecurity, was endorsed in 2017 and is available in the [Advocacy Positions Manual](#) (Section 4.5).

COMMENT

WALGA is seeking Zones' consideration of the recommendations included in the Discussion Paper to inform its submission to the Review on behalf of the sector and the development of an updated Biosecurity Advocacy Position. WALGA intends to put an updated Policy Position to the December State Council meeting. Local Governments are also strongly encouraged to make their own submissions to the review as appropriate in Stage 2 and 3.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Eddie Smith
Seconded: Cr Jackie Brooks

That the Zone endorse the following recommendations:

- 1. Strategic direction and regional priorities:** The State Government develop a strategic framework that enables the prioritisation of biosecurity threats in geographically defined regions and sets targets for declared pest management.
- 2. Agency responsibilities:** The roles and responsibilities of each State Government department responsible for biosecurity management need to be a clearly defined and communicated, a formalised structure for different agencies to work together established, and increased investment made in declared pest management on State Government managed land.
- 3. Declared Pest Rate and Recognised Biosecurity Groups:** If the Declared Pest Rate and Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBGs) are to continue to be key mechanisms for the management of widespread and established declared pests, changes are required to improve their operation and effectiveness to better support the concept of shared responsibility.

4. **Environmental biosecurity:** A more balanced view of biosecurity that has a greater focus on environmental biosecurity is required, through increased recognition and management of pest species that have significant ecological impacts.
5. **Responses to incursions:** Increased and more equitable distribution of funding is required to ensure each step of the biosecurity continuum is adequately resourced for all stakeholders, including Local Government.
6. **Management of declared pests in urban areas:** Declared pest management in all urban areas requires support through an appropriate funding mechanism.
7. **Problematic non-declared pests:** The process for the listing of declared pests needs to be timely and transparent to ensure that land managers, including Local Government, are not resourcing the control of an increasing number of problematic non-declared pest species.
8. **Sustainable funding model:** A sustainable and equitable funding model is required to manage the increasing biosecurity management threat.
9. **Compliance and enforcement:** The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Developments responsibility for compliance and enforcement needs to be adequately resourced and enacted.
10. **Monitoring, research and innovation:** Strategic monitoring, use of new technologies and the establishment of data management systems are required to inform biosecurity investment decisions and support adaptive management.
11. **Community education and involvement:** A stronger focus on community education to increase understanding and awareness will improve engagement with biosecurity management programs and assist with timely incursion responses.

CARRIED

6.3 Opportunities to address housing market failure in the Gascoyne

By Gascoyne Development Commission

BACKGROUND

There are numerous examples of market failure which is preventing alleviation of the housing shortage in the Gascoyne. Markets are often dominated by State government social and worker housing and decisions made impact development of functioning markets. Land release and assembly does not seem to be planned strategically.

State funding of solutions can distort the market in the longer term (eg Coral Bay workers accommodation) and is used less and less as a solution. Short term incentives and subsidies are more widely used to stimulate the market and public funding is more often used to provide information to support investment decisions – such as preparation of business cases.

A summary of current initiatives is at Attachment 1 and includes an Urbis study into market failures and potential solutions.

COMMENT

The Board of the Gascoyne Development Commission has undertaken a review of market failure and one action is to improve awareness of the issue with key decision makers. As mentioned individually by Zone members these decision makers and their advisers have little connection with the region and their regional representatives are often based outside the region.

The failures in the housing market across the State have been highlighted and are well understood by Ministers and there has been numerous individual approaches. There seems to be less understanding with the Departments which will drive the solutions and Board recommends these decision makers should be targeted in coming months.

GDC has identified that an aligned visit by the four Shires to the following decision makers would significantly raise the awareness of the issue and more importantly draw out some key solutions:-

1. CEO DevelopmentWA
2. CEO InfrastructureWA
3. Director General, Department of Communities
4. Director General, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage
5. CEO, Water Corporation

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Eddie Smith
Seconded: Cr Jackie Brooks

That the four CEOs and Shire Presidents (supported by GDC and WALGA) visit key agency chiefs in Perth to raise awareness of the Gascoyne housing market and agree on specific regional solutions, and that the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation be added to the key stakeholders list to meet with.

CARRIED

6.4 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review project

By Susie Moir, Policy Manager, Resilient Communities

WALGA and the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) Business Unit are working in partnership with key stakeholders to identify options to improve LEMA processes. WALGA has received AWARE funding to undertake the Local Government consultation for the LEMA Review.

WALGA will be delivering a series of workshops with Local Government to contribute to the design of a more streamlined, scalable, and fit-for-purpose LEMA model. The outcomes of the workshops will inform a LEMA Improvement Plan that will be prepared by the SEMC Business Unit.

Interactive workshops are being held in several locations with complimentary refreshments provided.

Target Audience: Chief Executive Officers, Emergency Management staff and Elected Members.

Workshop details below:

- Geraldton 7 September – Geraldton Multipurpose Centre 10.30am – 2:00pm
- Stirling 12 September – City of Stirling Civic Centre, Stirling Room 9:00am –12:00pm
- Katanning 13 September – Katanning Leisure Centre 10.30am – 2:00pm
- Bunbury 14 September – City of Bunbury Administration, Function Room 10.30am – 2:00pm
- Northam 15 September – Bilya Koort Boodja Centre 10.30am – 2:00pm
- Victoria Park 16 September – Town of Victoria Park Administration Building 9:00am –12:00pm
- Online workshops – date TBC

Registration

To register for a free LEMA Review workshop, [click here](#) and choose your relevant date and location.

Read more in the [WALGA LEMA Review Issues Paper](#). Local Governments are also encouraged to provide written feedback by COB Friday 15 October 2022.

For further information please email [Simone Ruane](#), WALGA's LEMA Review Project Lead, or call 9213 2049.

Noted.

6.5 WALGA Best Practice Governance Review Principles – AGM item

By Tim Lane, Manager Strategy and Association Governance

BACKGROUND

In March 2022, State Council commissioned the WALGA Best Practice Governance Review (BPGR) with the aim of ensuring WALGA's governance model is contemporary, agile and maximises engagement with members. The BPGR, overseen by a Steering Committee appointed by State Council, is now well underway.

The BPGR Steering Committee have formulated a set of governance principles to guide the development of potential governance models.

At a special meeting on 22 August, State Council endorsed the principles, along with an AGM Agenda item which seeks endorsement of the principles by members at the 2022 Annual General Meeting on 3 October.

The purpose of the AGM item is to gauge member support for progressing the BPGR to the development of potential models.

Following consideration of the principles at the 2022 AGM, an extensive consultation and engagement process will be undertaken with members on these potential governance models. This will occur during October, November and December, with the intention of using the member feedback to inform a final report. This report will then be considered at Zone meetings in February 2023 and subsequently the March 2023 State Council meeting.

Once the final report is endorsed, Constitutional amendments will be prepared for consideration by State Council, followed by the broader membership at the 2023 AGM. As per WALGA's Constitution, amendments to the Constitution require endorsement by a 75 percent majority at both State Council and a general meeting of members.

COMMENT

The AGM Agenda is due to be distributed in late August, ahead of the AGM on Monday, 3 October at Crown Perth.

It is recommended that once the AGM Agenda is distributed, members consider the item and governance principles and inform their registered Voting Delegates on how to vote.

Noted.

6.6 Zone Status Report – August 2022

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Gascoyne C	2021 19 February Zone Agenda Item 5.4 Issues with the DRFAWA Claims and Approvals Process	That the Gascoyne Country Zone recommend WALGA request DFES to form a working group of participants from affected Shires to review the current process and report back on outcomes and solutions.	Data has been collected from a sample of Councils that have recently suffered declared disasters and is being analyzed to inform engagement with DFES. The Infrastructure Policy Team has supported the establishment of a working group as proposed and requested that efforts be made to engage DFES in the establishment of the group.	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Gascoyne C	2019 March 22 Zone Agenda Item 5.2 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition	That the Gascoyne Zone request WALGA to: 1. Advocate for thorough consultation with the Local Government sector regarding alternative approaches to the CA07 operating condition; and, 2. Establish a Working Group consisting of representatives from MRWA, WALGA, LGIS, DoT and the Local Government sector incorporating at least one member from each affected WALGA Zone to consider alternative approaches.	The RAV Access working group met by teleconference in early December. Based on the resolution of this meeting a letter detailing Local Government expectations was sent to Main Roads WA. The Association discussed this matter with Main Roads WA in November 2020. They are engaging with the State Solicitors Office prior to a proposed consultation with Local Government concerning a proposed approach. WALGA has subsequently met with Main Roads who confirm that the status quo remains until further notice.	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Gascoyne C	2021 25 June Zone Agenda Item 8.1 Road Closures	That WALGA be tasked to compile a guidance note on the drafting of a local law to apply fines to drivers ignoring road closure signage and on the use of the Traffic Administration Act to recover compensation for road damage.	The Infrastructure Policy Team resolved: 1. The key legislative / regulatory requirements appear to be in place; 2. Vehicles being driven on closed roads occurs in other remote Local Government areas, although the situations are different around the State; 3. In the absence of identified technology solutions an initial approach be made by WALGA to ARRB and PATREC to determine if research centres are interested in developing a research project. The Association has been in contact with ARRB, who advised that they were not aware of suitable technology. At the time of writing WALGA is waiting on a formal response from PATREC.	August 2022	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031

Gascoyne C	2022, 24 June Zone Agenda Item 6.4 Proposed Advocacy Position for Management of Bushfire Brigades Discussion Paper	That the Gascoyne Country Zone support the "Hybrid Model" for the Management of Bushfire Brigades	An Item for Decision on this matter will be prepared for the September State Council and Zone meeting round.	August 2022	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039
Gascoyne C	2022, 24 June Zone Agenda Item 6.2 Intensive Family Community Intervention	That the Gascoyne Country Zone seeks WALGA's support to advocate to the State Government to allocate funds and/or resources to fund and implement the Intensive Family Community Intervention in Carnarvon and other communities impacted by youth crime and social issues and support fundamental change to policy position to ensure it can be implemented.	SECRETARIAT COMMENT Based on the information provided the approach the Shire of Carnarvon is pursuing is sound and grounded in an evidence base of effective 'youth at risk' interventions. There is strong engagement with key stakeholders and genuine commitment to work in partnership with local Aboriginal community leaders and organisations. The Intensive Family Intervention Support Program (IFCI) is a specialist service incorporating a wholistic approach involving coordinated intensive case management support for the young people and their families. The Shire's role in this framework should be to support and assist in facilitating local responses through investment in strategic partnerships, rather than involvement in direct service delivery. The role of the Shire in the framework should be promoted to residents along with a balanced campaign celebrating the contributions and achievements of young people and generating youth-led initiatives in visible locations within the Shire. WALGA's Community Policy Advocacy Positions will be reviewed during 2022-23 and this issue will be considered for inclusion as part of that process.	August 2022	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039
Gascoyne C	2021 19 February Zone Agenda Item 5.4 Issues with the DRFAWA Claims and Approvals Process (Status Report)	That the Gascoyne Country Zone recommend WALGA request DFES to form a working group of participants from affected Shires to review the current process and report back on outcomes and solutions.	The Infrastructure Policy Team supported the establishment of a working group. Engagement with DFES has been undertaken and continues to identify appropriate participants given changes in staff.	August 2022	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031

Gascoyne C	2022, 24 June Zone Agenda Item 9.2 Management Orders on State owned Land Management Orders on State owned land	That the Gascoyne Country Zone recommend that WALGA in consultation with Zone delegates, advocate to the State Government for a review of the Management Orders pertaining to State Land that is managed by Local Government especially in relation to Local Government leasing such land to other parties.	WALGA will contact the Zone delegates for further information.	August 2022	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039
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Noted.

7. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA – MATTERS FOR DECISION

(Zone delegates to consider the Matters for Decision contained in the WA Local Government Association State Council Agenda and put forward resolutions to Zone Representatives on State Council)

The full State Council Agenda can be found via link: [9 September 2022 State Council Agenda](#)

The Zone is able to provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation that is then presented to the State Council for consideration.

Matters for Decision

5.1 2023-24 State Budget Submission

That the 2023-24 State Budget Submission be endorsed.

5.2 Proposed Advocacy Position on Management of Bush Fire Brigades

That the following Advocacy Position on Management of Bush Fire Brigades be endorsed.

8.10 Management of Bush Fire Brigades

1. Bush Fire Brigade volunteers play a critical role in helping to protect their local communities. Local knowledge and skills are integral to bushfire management in Western Australia.
2. Future management and funding of volunteer Bush Fire Brigades must:
 - a) Recognise the changing risk environment, including work health and safety requirements, and the increasing intensity and frequency of bushfires;
 - b) Take account of the differing circumstances of Bush Fire Brigade units and regional variations in bush firefighting approaches; and
 - c) Be adequately and equitably resourced through the Emergency Services Levy.
3. The State Government, through the Consolidated Emergency Services Act and/or other mechanism's must:
 - a) establish a clear framework to enable transfer of Bush Fire Brigades to the State Government if a Local Government decides to do so;
 - b) Consult on the process, timeline, and implications for transfer of responsibility for Bush Fire Brigades in accordance with 3(a) through the establishment of a working group comprising representatives of Local Government, Bush Fire Brigades, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES);
 - c) Provide for mandatory and minimum training requirements and recognition of competency and prior learning for Bush Fire Brigade volunteers, supported by a fit-for-purpose and universally accessible training program, designed in consultation with Bush Fire Brigade representatives, Local Government and LGIS, and managed by DFES; and
 - d) Develop a co-designed suite of relevant management guidelines and materials to assist in the management of Bush Fire Brigades.
4. The State Government to consider the most appropriate operational model for State Government management of Bush Fire Brigades, which may include the establishment of an independent Rural Fire Service, as recommended in the 2016 Ferguson Report.

Matters for Noting

- 6.1 Local Government Homelessness Knowledge Hub
- 6.2 State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement 2023/24
- 6.3 Paid Family and Domestic Violence Leave Entitlements Update
- 6.4 Proposed State Industrial Relations Transition
- 6.5 2023-24 State Budget Submission Approach

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jackie Brooks
Seconded: President Eddie Smith

That

1. Supports all Matters for Decision as listed above in the September Month 2022 State Council Agenda; and
2. Notes all Matters for Noting and Organisational Reports as listed in the September Month 2022 State Council Agenda.

CARRIED

8. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

8.1 State Councillor's Report to the Zone

Cr Cheryl Cowell provided an update on the State Council report to the zone.

Noted.

8.2 President's Report to the Zone

WALGA representative, Mark Bondietti summarised the President's Report.

Noted.

8.3 Gascoyne Development Commission

Chief Executive Officer, Tym Duncanson, provided an update to the Zone.

Noted.

8.3.1 Gascoyne Development Commission – Working Group Update

Chief Executive Officer, Tym Duncanson provided an update to the Zone.

Noted.

8.4 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Angela Gray and Darcey Bosch provided an update to the Zone on DLGSC matters.

Noted.

8.5 Roadwise Report

Samantha Adams, Road Safety Officer, Mid-West was an apology for the meeting. Report taken as read.

Noted

8.6 Regional Development Australia – Mid West Gascoyne

Mark Holdsworth, Director of Regional Development/Executive Officer was an apology for the meeting.

Noted

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Zone Meeting Dates – 2022

Zone Meeting	Type	Location
10:00am, Friday 18 February	In-Person	Carnarvon
10:00am, Friday 22 April	<i>Teleconference</i>	
10:00am, Friday 24 June	In-Person	Shark Bay
10:00am, Friday 26 August	<i>Teleconference</i>	
10:00am, Friday 25 November	In-Person	Carnarvon

10. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting: 10:00am, Friday 25 November 2022, hosted by the Shire of Carnarvon.

11. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at **11:18am**.