

# **Gascoyne Country Zone Minutes**

## **19 June 2026**

**Hosted by the Shire of Exmouth  
2 Truscott Crescent, Exmouth**

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## PRIORITISATION FRAMEWORK

How to use the Framework:

- If the majority of the factors are towards the left column, the issue is a high priority.
- If the majority of the factors are towards the middle, the issue requires action, but is not a high priority.
- If the majority of the factors are towards the right column, the issue is a low priority.

<b>Impact on Local Government Sector</b> Impact on Local Government sector without intervention	High	Medium	Low
<b>Reach</b> Number of member Local Governments affected	Sector-wide	Significant (multiple regions, Zones, or bands)	Few
<b>Influence</b> Capacity to influence decision makers	High	Medium	Low
<b>Principles</b> Alignment to core principles such as autonomy, funding, general competence	Strong	Partial	Peripheral
<b>Clarity</b> Policy change needed is clear and well-defined	Clear	Partial	Unclear
<b>Decision-maker support</b> Level of support among decision-makers (political and administrative)	High	Medium	Low
<b>Public support</b> Level of support among the public or other stakeholders	High	Medium	Low
<b>Positive consequences for WALGA</b> Prospect of positive consequences for WALGA. E.g. enhanced standing among members or leverage for other issues.	High	Medium	Low
<b>Negative consequences for WALGA</b> Prospect of negative consequences for WALGA for not undertaking the advocacy effort. E.g. diminished standing among members or other stakeholders.	High	Medium	Low
<b>Partnerships</b> Potential for partnerships with other stakeholders	Yes (3+)	Possibly (1-2)	No (0)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zone Delegates were requested to provide sufficient written notice, wherever possible, of amendments to recommendations within the State Council or Zone Agenda to the Zone Chair and Secretariat prior to the Zone meeting.

Agenda Papers were emailed 7 days prior to the meeting date.

Confirmation of Attendance The attendance was confirmed prior to the commencement of the meeting.

## ATTACHMENTS

1. LGIRS Local Government Division Report
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Zone Status Report
4. President's Report

## 1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

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### 1.1 OPENING

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*Zone Deputy Chair, Cr Pietr Stubberfield opened the meeting at 10:00am.*

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### 1.2 ATTENDANCE

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MEMBERS	1 Voting Delegates from each Member Local Government
Shire of Carnarvon	Commissioner Martin Aldridge Ms Amanda Dexter, Chief Executive Officer – non-voting
Shire of Exmouth	President Cr Matthew Niikkula Deputy President, Cr Jackie Brooks (observer) – <i>joined the meeting at 11:05am</i> Ms Vikki Lauritsen, Acting Chief Executive Officer – non -voting
Shire of Upper Gascoyne ( <i>via MS Teams</i> )	President Cr Jimmy Caunt Mr John McCleary, Chief Executive Officer – non-voting
Shire of Shark Bay ( <i>via MS Teams</i> )	President Cr Pietr Stubberfield ( <b>Deputy Chair</b> ) Mr Dale Chapman, Chief Executive Officer – non-voting
<b>WALGA Secretariat</b>	Mr Mark Bondiotti, Policy Manager Transport and Roads Ms Jade Mains, Senior Policy Advisor Environment ( <i>via MS Teams</i> ) Ms Jessica Varady, Policy Advisor Environment ( <i>via MS Teams</i> )
<b>GUESTS</b>	
Gascoyne Development Commission	Mr Tim Bray, Chief Executive Officer

Regional Development  
Australia – Mid West  
Gascoyne  
Member for Mid-West

Mr Mark Holdsworth, Executive Officer  
  
Mr Shane Love MLA

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## 1.3 APOLOGIES

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### MEMBERS

Shire of Exmouth

Cr Jacqueline Hine  
Mr Ben Lewis, Chief Executive Officer

### GUESTS

Main Roads

Ms Andrea Pitcher, A/Asset Management Officer

Minister for Local Government;  
Disability Services;  
Volunteering; Youth; Gascoyne

Hon. Hannah Beazley MLA

Shane Love

## 2 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.

*The WALGA Secretariat assumed the Chair for the Election of Zone Chair*

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### 2.1 ELECTION OF ZONE CHAIR OF THE GASCOYNE COUNTRY ZONE

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Due to the recent resignation of Paul Kelly from the Shire of Carnarvon, the Zone was required to elect a Zone Chair. Nominations were called prior to the meeting.

The term of office will be for the remaining current term expiring in November 2027, in line with the terms of State Council representatives and in sync with Local Government Elections.

#### Zone Chair

No written nominations were received for the position of Chair prior to Agenda distribution.

Nominations were called from the floor. A nomination was received from President Cr Matthew Niikkula.

## DECLARATION

That President Cr Matthew Niikkula is elected as Chair of the Gascoyne Country Zone for the remaining 2-year term, expiring November 2027.

*The WALGA Secretariat handed over to the newly elected Zone Chair.*

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## 2.2 ELECTION OF DEPUTY STATE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

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As Paul Kelly also held the position of Deputy State Councillor and has since resigned from the Shire of Carnarvon nominations were called to fill the vacancy prior to the meeting.

### Deputy State Councillor

No written nominations were received for the position of Deputy State Councillor prior to Agenda distribution.

Nominations were called from the floor. A nomination was received from President Cr Pietr Stubberfield.

## DECLARATION

That President Cr Pietr Stubberfield be elected as Deputy State Council Representative of the Gascoyne Country Zone for the remaining term until December 2027.

## 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Zone Delegates must declare to the Chair any potential conflict of interest they have in a matter before the Zone as soon as they become aware of it. Zone Delegates 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.

Nil.

## 4 DEPUTATIONS

Nil.

## 5 AGENCY REPORTS

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### 5.1 LGIRS LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIVISION REPORT

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The June 2026 report from the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) Local Government Division was enclosed as an attachment.

**Noted**

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## 5.2 GASCOYNE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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Gascoyne Development Commission Chief Executive Officer, Mr Tim Bray, provided an update to the Zone.

**Noted**

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## 5.3 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA

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Executive Officer, RDA Mid-West Gascoyne, Mr Mark Holdsworth, provided an update to the Zone.

**Noted**

## 6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The previous meeting Minutes of the Gascoyne Country Zone have been circulated to Zone Delegates and were provided as an attachment to the Agenda.

### RESOLUTION

**Moved:** President Cr Pietr Stubberfield  
**Seconded:** President Cr Jimmy Caunt

**That the Minutes of the meeting of the Gascoyne Country Zone held on 24 April 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**

**CARRIED**

## 7 BUSINESS ARISING

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### 7.1 STATUS REPORT

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A Status Report outlining any recent updates and/or actions taken on the Zone's previous meetings resolutions for both State Council and Zone items is enclosed as an attachment. These item updates will remain on the Status Report until completed or no further action is required by WALGA.

**Noted**

## 8 ZONE BUSINESS

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### 8.1 WELCOME

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The Chair welcomed Commissioner Martin Aldridge to the meeting.

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## 8.2 ROLE OF COUNCILLORS

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Zone Delegates are seeking advice on the availability of marketing material on the roles and responsibilities of Councillors to help promote elections.

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## 8.3 INVITATION TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

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### RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Jimmy Caunt  
Seconded: President Cr Pietr Stubberfield

That a standing invitation be extended to Local Members of Parliament to attend Gascoyne Country Zone meetings going forward.

CARRIED

## 9 WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA

Zone Delegates are invited to read and consider the WALGA State Council Agenda which can be found via the link [here](#).

The Zone can provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation on any of the items, including the items for noting. The Zone comment will then be presented to the State Council for consideration at their meeting.

The State Council Agenda items requiring a decision of State Council are extracted for Zone consideration below.

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### 9.1 CLIMATE CHANGE ADVOCACY POSITION

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*By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste*

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A new climate change Advocacy Position is proposed to replace the position endorsed by State Council in 2018.
- WALGA released a Consultation Paper and draft Climate Change Advocacy Position in January 2026 for Council endorsed feedback by 1 May 2026.
- 39 Council endorsed submissions and two officer level comments were received:
  - 18 (44%) supported the draft Position.
  - 18 (44%) supported the draft Position with comments and/or proposed changes.
  - four (10%) did not support the draft Position and proposed an alternative.
  - one (2%) did not support the Advocacy Position.
- The draft Advocacy Position has been refined in response to the feedback received, noting that the majority of submissions either supported the draft position in its entirety or supported with comment and/or amendment:

- “to meet the needs of their communities” has been added to Point 1 to better reflect Local Government context.
- Point 2b has been revised to:
  - Include explicit reference to increasing risk and expanded legislative requirements and align with language in the *Local Government Act* (mitigation, rather than emissions reduction).
  - Be clear that Local Government must be provided with the funding, guidance and practical support required to meet increasing risk and legislative requirements.
- At its meeting on 25 May 2026, the Environment Policy Team considered this item and recommended that State Council replace the current Climate Change Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 4.1 with the new Advocacy Position.

## ATTACHMENT

- [Climate Change Advocacy Position Consultation Report](#)

## STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item aligns with WALGA's Strategic Pillars:

- **Influence:** Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government and lead policy development for the Local Government sector.
- **Support:** Anticipate, understand and respond to Member needs.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed that the [Climate Change Policy Statement](#) and **current** Advocacy Position 4.1 Climate Change as follows:

*Local Government acknowledges:*

1. *The science is clear: Climate change is occurring and greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are the dominant cause.*
2. *Climate change threatens human societies and the Earth's ecosystems.*
3. *Urgent action is required to reduce emissions, and to adapt to the impacts from climate change that are now unavoidable.*
4. *A failure to adequately address this climate change emergency places an unacceptable burden on future generations.*

*Local Government is committed to addressing climate change.*

*Local Government is calling for:*

1. *Strong climate change action, leadership and coordination at all levels of government.*
2. *Effective and adequately funded Commonwealth and State Government climate change policies and programs.*

be **replaced** with (changes following consultation underlined):

1. *Local Government acknowledges the risks associated with, and is committed to addressing, climate change to meet the needs of their communities.*
2. *WALGA calls on the Australian and Western Australian Governments to:*

- a. *provide the necessary climate leadership, coordination and action to ensure an orderly transition to achieve emission reduction targets and address the impacts of climate change.*
- b. *ensure that Local Government has the funding, guidance and practical support required to meet increasing risk and expanded legislative requirements to plan for, mitigate and adapt to climate impacts.*

## BACKGROUND

In 2018, State Council endorsed a [Climate Change Policy Statement](#) and Advocacy Position, following extensive sector consultation. Since this position was adopted there have been significant legislative, policy, technological and scientific changes, including:

- The national *Climate Change Act 2022* and the Western Australian Climate Change Bill 2023.
- Increased legislative responsibilities, including the *Local Government Amendment Act 2023*, which expanded Western Australian Local Governments' general function under Part 3 s3.1(1A) of the *Local Government Act 1995*:
  - a. To promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the district;
  - b. To plan for, and to plan for mitigating, risks associated with climate change; and
  - c. In making decisions, to consider potential long-term consequences and impacts on future generations
- The release of the Australian Government's [National Climate Risk Assessment](#) and [National Adaptation Plan](#) in 2025.
- Escalation of the transition to renewable energy, uptake of electric vehicles and energy efficiency standards under the National Construction Code.
- Climate science and projections ([international](#), [national](#) and [WA specific](#)) have also become clearer regarding the risks posed by climate change and the need for action to address the consequential impacts.

Work commenced on the review of the current position in 2024. An updated draft position was considered at the March 2025 State Council meeting, with the position referred back to the Environment Policy Team for further development. In January 2026, WALGA released a Consultation Paper and draft Advocacy Position, with Council endorsed feedback requested by 1 May 2026.

## COMMENT

Responses were received from 41 Local Governments, 39 Council endorsed submissions and two officer level comments (Karratha and Melville):

- 18 (44%) supported the draft Advocacy Position:
  - Metropolitan: Joondalup, Stirling, Bayswater, Kalamunda, Bassendean, Canning, Cockburn, Melville, Rockingham, Cambridge, Subiaco and Serpentine Jarrahdale.
  - Regional: Harvey, Victoria Plains, Gnowangerup, Kalgoorlie Boulder, Ngaanyatjarraku and Karratha.
- 18 (44%) were supported with comment and/or proposed changes:
  - 7 sought minor wording refinements or small additions:
    - Metropolitan: Belmont, Gosnells and Kwinana.
    - Regional: Dumbleyung, West Arthur, York and Mingenew.
  - 11 proposed more substantial amendments:

- Metropolitan: Mundaring, Armadale, Victoria Park, East Fremantle, Fremantle, Perth and Vincent.
  - Regional: Augusta Margaret River, Busselton, Kent and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.
- Four (10%) did not support the draft Advocacy Position and proposed an alternative position:
  - Regional: Waroona (alternative position). Quairading, Wagin and Cue provided the Central Country Zone position.
- One (2%) did not support the draft Advocacy Position and did not provide an alternative:
  - Regional: Collie.

Responses were received from Local Governments across all Metropolitan Zones and from all but two Country Zones.

Across both metropolitan and regional submissions, Local Governments emphasised that the roles and responsibilities of each level of government in climate change mitigation and adaptation remain unclear, while legislative obligations placed on Local Governments have expanded without a sustainable funding model to support implementation. Small, rural and remote Local Governments raised concerns about their communities' heightened exposure to heat, extreme weather and infrastructure failure, combined with limited local capacity and resources to respond effectively.

The draft Advocacy Position has been refined in response to the feedback received, noting that the majority of submissions either supported the draft position in its entirety or supported with comment and/or amendment:

- *"to meet the needs of their communities"* has been added to Point 1 to better reflect Local Government context.
- Point 2b has been revised to:
  - Include explicit reference to increasing risk and expanded legislative requirements and align with language in the Local Government Act (mitigation, rather than emissions reduction).
  - Be clear that Local Government must be provided with the funding, guidance and practical support required to meet increasing risk and legislative requirements.

The Position has been kept high level, noting that many of the specific matters raised in the feedback are included in other WALGA Advocacy Positions (or will be incorporated when these positions are reviewed) and/or will inform WALGA's more detailed climate advocacy.

A [Climate Change Advocacy Position Consultation Report](#) providing a summary of feedback received and rationale for the changes to the position is attached.

At its meeting on 25 May 2026, the Environment Policy Team considered this item and recommended that State Council replace the existing Climate Change Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 4.1 with the new Climate Change Advocacy Position.

RECOMMENDATION
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That State Council replace the Climate Change Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 4.1 with a new Climate Change Advocacy Position as follows:

1. *Local Government acknowledges the risks associated with, and is committed to addressing, climate change to meet the needs of their communities.*
2. *WALGA calls on the Australian and Western Australian Governments to:*
  - a. *Provide the necessary climate leadership, coordination and action to ensure an orderly transition to achieve emission reduction targets and address the impacts of climate change.*
  - b. *Ensure that Local Government has the funding, guidance and practical support required to meet increasing risk and expanded legislative requirements to plan for, mitigate and adapt to climate impacts.*

## RESOLUTION

Moved: Commissioner Martin Aldridge  
Seconded: President Cr Pietr Stubberfield

That the Gascoyne Country Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.1 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

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## 9.2 TRAIN STATION PRECINCTS ADVOCACY POSITION

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*By Coralie Claudio, A/Manager Planning and Building*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- In November 2025, the State Government [announced](#) it would commence the preparation of Improvement Plans and Improvement Schemes for ten train station precincts across the Perth metropolitan region.
- A new Train Station Precinct Advocacy Position is proposed, which identifies the need for collaborative, place-based, and infrastructure-led precinct planning that enables housing delivery while respecting local planning frameworks and maintaining community confidence, supported by strong State Government coordination and funding.
- The position is intended to support timely and direct engagement with the State Government on sector priorities for current and future State-led train station precincts.
- The draft position has been informed by a review of Council resolutions and feedback from Local Governments, including those associated with the initial ten identified train station precincts.
- The Environment Policy Team endorsed the position at its meeting on 18 May 2026.

### ATTACHMENT

- [Rationale New Advocacy Position: Train Station Precincts](#)

### STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item aligns with WALGA's Strategic Pillars:

- **Influence** – Lead advocacy on issues that are important to Local Government, including coordinated precinct planning and housing delivery.
- **Support** – Anticipate, understand, and respond to Member needs, ensuring Local Governments are effectively engaged in State-led precinct planning processes.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

It is proposed that the **new** Train Station Precincts Advocacy Position be **endorsed**.

This draft position is consistent with, and builds upon, Advocacy Position 6.1 Planning Principles and Reform:

1. *The Local Government sector supports an efficient and effective planning system guided by legislation, policy, and processes that:*
  - a. *facilitates the creation of sustainable and liveable communities and places;*
  - b. *has a focus on strategic planning that delivers on long-term objectives and outcomes that balance social, environmental, cultural, and economic interests;*
  - c. *is easy to understand, accessible and transparent;*
  - d. *recognises the diversity of Western Australia and ensures that local environment, context, communities and character are appropriately reflected in planning frameworks and decision making;*
  - e. *ensures decisions are made by the level of government closest to and most impacted by a planning proposal; and*
  - f. *establishes consistent planning frameworks and streamlines planning processes where there is a demonstrated benefit in doing so.*
2. *Reforms to the planning system should:*
  - a. *be guided by the above principles;*
  - b. *deliver community benefit;*
  - c. *promote system efficiency, including through the use of technology;*
  - d. *be evidence-based and informed by robust, transparent data;*
  - e. *proceed at an appropriate pace to enable effective implementation;*
  - f. *be informed by engagement with the community; and be amended only with WALGA involvement and consultation with Local Government.*

## **BACKGROUND**

Planning around train stations, including the establishment of local planning frameworks and the determination of development applications, has historically been the responsibility of Local Governments.

In November 2025, the State Government announced it was commencing the establishment of Improvement Plans and Schemes around ten train station precincts across the Perth metropolitan region to streamline planning and development and facilitate housing development. Through this process, the State would become responsible for setting planning frameworks, including elements such as height and zoning, and determining development applications.

The ten station precincts, involving 14 directly affected Local Governments, are listed below:

- Ballajura (City of Swan);
- Bassendean (Town of Bassendean);
- Carlisle/Oats Street (Town of Victoria Park);
- Claisebrook (City of Perth and City of Vincent);

- Cottesloe (Town of Cottesloe and Shire of Peppermint Grove);
- Glendalough (City of Vincent and City of Stirling);
- Morley (City of Bayswater);
- Mosman Park (Town of Mosman Park and Shire of Peppermint Grove);
- Redcliffe (City of Belmont); and
- Swanbourne (Town of Claremont, City of Nedlands and Town of Cottesloe).

Improvement Plans and Schemes for the Ballajura and Redcliffe stations were already underway prior to this announcement. Importantly, the announcement noted these were only the first stations, indicating additional state-led station precincts may be identified in the future.

At its December 2025 meeting, State Council resolved that:

1. *State Council request WALGA to prepare an Advocacy Position in consultation with Members, regarding the transport and planning principles required to ensure quality outcomes in the newly announced "Station Precinct Improvement Plans and Schemes" in Metropolitan Perth and regional stations if included.*
2. *The Advocacy Position will include transport and place-making outcomes on both government controlled and private land that maximise liveability and use of the public transport network.*

*RESOLUTION 069.5/2025*

To inform the development of the Advocacy Position, WALGA sought feedback from Local Governments associated with the initial ten station precincts, including collecting and reviewing relevant Council reports and resolutions from ten Local Governments.

The draft position supports a coordinated approach to station precinct planning and makes the following key recommendations to support effective development and implementation of Improvement Plans and Schemes:

- Promote housing density, diversity and delivery while ensuring place-responsive and transit-oriented development outcomes.
- Recognise the State Government's critical role in coordination and investment, including redevelopment of underutilised State land.
- Call for recognition of existing and progressing local planning frameworks and meaningful engagement with Local Governments and communities.
- Support a strategic, evidence-based and transparent approach to identifying and delivering future State-led station precincts.

The draft advocacy position was circulated to the sector for feedback over a two-week period until 7 May. WALGA received 22 responses, all from metropolitan Local Governments, including nine of the 14 Local Governments directly affected by the initial ten identified train station precincts.

#### **COMMENT**

This Advocacy Position is intended to enable WALGA to make timely and direct representations to the State Government on the sector's priorities for State-led train station precincts.

The proposed new Advocacy Position will complement WALGA's planning Advocacy Position, 6.1 Planning Principles and Reform, which notes that planning frameworks and decision-making should reflect local environment, context, communities and character, and that decisions should be made by the level of government closest to and most impacted by a planning proposal.

The draft position has been informed by a review of relevant Council resolutions and Local Government officer input, including feedback from WALGA's Planning Advisory Group.

The draft advocacy position was refined following sector consultation to emphasise that a planning framework alone will not deliver on-the-ground outcomes. Instead, it highlights the substantial scale of State Government collaboration, coordination and funding required to enable and accelerate precinct delivery, including a stronger focus on the redevelopment of underutilised State Government land.

The position was also refined to avoid blanket support for all State Improvement Plans and Schemes, instead clarifying the circumstances in which State-led planning may be appropriate for future station precincts.

The Environment Policy Team recommended that State Council endorse the position at its meeting on 18 May 2026.

#### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the following new Advocacy Position:

##### *Train Station Precincts*

1. *Local Government supports a coordinated approach to the planning and development of train station precincts that is transport-orientated, place responsive and provides for increased housing density and diversity.*
2. *In developing Train Station Precinct Improvement Plans and Schemes the State Government should:*
  - a. *Respect, acknowledge and build on existing and progressing local planning frameworks.*
  - b. *Ensure effective collaboration, partnerships and coordination across Government agencies and with Local Government.*
  - c. *Prioritise redevelopment of State-owned land to deliver optimal housing and mixed-use outcomes.*
  - d. *Undertake meaningful and ongoing community engagement.*
  - e. *Directly fund and/or implement funding mechanisms to deliver public realm and infrastructure requirements.*
3. *Decisions on any future State-led train station precincts must be evidence-based, transparent and made in consultation with Local Government.*

#### RESOLUTION

**Moved:** President Cr Jimmy Caunt

**Seconded:** President Cr Pietr Stubberfield

That the Gascoyne Country Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.2 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

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### 9.3 SUBMISSION ON THE CAT ACT REVIEW

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*By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager Environment and Waste and Felicity Morris, Manager Governance and Procurement*

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- On 13 February 2026 the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) opened consultation on the second statutory review of the *Cat Act 2011* (the Cat Act).
- All elements of the Cat Act are under review, including registration, enforcement/ compliance, sterilisation, microchipping, breeding and limits on the number of cats.
- WALGA used current Advocacy Positions, previous submissions, a webinar with the sector and opportunity to comment on a draft submission to gather feedback.
- The submission identifies that reform to the legislation is required, in relation to:
  - Consolidation of the Cat Act and *Dog Act 1976*;
  - Stronger provisions for consistent non-compliance;
  - Clear definitions for owned and unowned cats;
  - Development of a Model Cat Local Law;
  - A limit on the number of cats; and
  - Lowering the age of sterilisation.
- Consultation by LGIRS closes at 5:00pm on Monday, 31 August 2026.
- A joint meeting of the Governance and Environment Policy Teams on 25 May 2026 recommended that State Council endorse the submission.

#### ATTACHMENT

- [Submission on the Review of the \*Cat Act 2011\*](#)

#### STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item aligns with WALGA's Strategic Pillars:

- **Influence:** Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government and lead policy development for the Local Government sector.
- **Support:** Anticipate, understand and respond to Member needs.

#### POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This submission has been developed based on current WALGA [Advocacy Positions](#):

- 2.12.1 Review of the *Cat Act 2011* and *Dog Act 1976*; and
- 2.12.2 Dog and Cat Management.

And previous submissions and positions on the legislation.

#### BACKGROUND

On 13 February 2026, the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) opened [consultation](#) on the review of the *Cat Act 2011* (the Cat Act), the second statutory review of the legislation. The previous review was undertaken in 2019. The Cat Act provides for the control and management of cats and aims to promote and encourage the responsible ownership of cats, and for related matters.

As articulated in the Second Reading Speech, the Cat Act was introduced with the aim to reduce the number of stray cats being euthanised each year, encourage responsible cat ownership and provide for better management of the unwanted impacts of cats on the community and environment.

The submission provides recommendations on provisions in the Cat Act and identifies some of the issues Local Governments experience with implementing the legislation. WALGA used current Advocacy Positions, previous submissions, a webinar with the sector and opportunity to comment on a draft submission to gather feedback.

The webinar, held on 26 March 2026, had 61 registrations from Local Government. Feedback was received, and incorporated, on the draft submission.

The submission was considered, and is recommended to State Council for endorsement, by a joint meeting of the Governance and Environment Policy Teams on 25 May 2026.

### **COMMENT**

In this submission WALGA has identified several areas where reform to the legislation is required, including:

- Consolidation of the Cat Act and *Dog Act 1976*;
- Stronger provisions for consistent non-compliance;
- Clear definitions for owned and unowned cats;
- Development of a Model Cat Local Law;
- A limit on the number of cats; and
- Lowering the age of sterilisation.

In drafting the submission, WALGA has also identified implementation challenges for the sector in particular low registration rates for cats, the lack of a centralised database for registration and limited resourcing.

Cat containment is out of scope of this submission, as the State Government is progressing the [Cat Amendment \(Local Laws\) Bill 2026](#) to enable Local Governments to make cat containment Local Laws. WALGA is engaging separately with the sector on this matter.

### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

That State Council endorse the submission on the Review of *Cat Act 2011*.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Commissioner Martin Aldridge  
**Seconded:** President Cr Jimmy Caunt

**That the Gascoyne Country Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.3 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.**

**CARRIED**

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## **9.4 OTHER STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS**

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Zone Delegates are invited to raise for discussion, questions or decision any of the items in the State Council Agenda, including the items for noting, Policy Team and Committee Reports or the Key Activity Reports.

### **9.4.1 WALGA 2025 Local Government Emergency Management Survey Findings – State Council Agenda Item 10.1**

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The 2025 WALGA Local Government Emergency Management Survey, undertaken in partnership with Edith Cowan University (ECU), highlights ongoing resource, workforce and funding pressures across the Local Government sector, including rising emergency management expectations, structural funding challenges, grant access difficulties, and increasing staffing and capacity constraints.

An additional confidential attachment was available for Zone Delegates.

**Noted**

## **10 EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

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### **10.1 WALGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

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The President's Report was enclosed as an attachment to the Agenda.

**Noted**

### **10.2 STATE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT TO THE ZONE**

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Gascoyne Country Zone State Councillor, President Cr Matthew Niikkula, provided an update on the activities of State Council since the last Zone meeting.

**Noted**

## **11 OTHER BUSINESS**

The WALGA Secretariat announced the release of proposed changes to the commonwealth disaster funding arrangements that are open for submissions by 31 July.

**Noted**

## 12 NEXT MEETING

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### 12.1 NEXT MEETING

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The next meeting of the Gascoyne Country Zone will be held on Friday, 21 August 2026 via MS Teams, commencing at 10:00am.

### 12.2 REMAINING ZONE MEETING DATES - 2026

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Zone Meeting	Type	Location
Friday, 21 August at 10:00am	<i>Teams</i>	
Friday, 20 November at 10:00am	In-Person	Carnarvon

## 13 CLOSURE

*There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11:50am.*