



WALGA

Great Southern Zone of WALGA

MINUTES

of an Ordinary Meeting
(2 voting delegates per council)

held on

Friday 23 April 2021

Venue:
The Kojonup Sporting Complex
Ben Parade
Kojonup

1. OPEN: 12.32pm Acknowledgement of the Traditional Owners of the land.
Welcome by Cr John Benn, Shire of Kojonup

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Cr Ronnie Fleay	Zone President and Chairman of the meeting
Annabel Paulley	Zone Executive Officer
City of Albany	Cr Matt Benson-Lidholm
Broomehill / Tambellup	Cr Mark Paganoni and CEO Keith Williams
Cranbrook	Cr Phil Horrocks and CEO Greg Blycha
Denmark	Nil
Gnowangerup	Cr Fiona Gaze, and CEO Bob Jarvis
Jerramungup	Nil
Katanning	Cr Liz Guidera and CEO Julian Murphy
Kent	Cr Scott Crosby, Cr Kate Johnston and CEO Rick Miller
Kojonup	Cr John Benn
Plantagenet	Cr Jon Oldfield and Cr Len Handasyde
Woodanilling	Cr Dale Douglas and CEO Stephen Gash

Total of 12 out of a possible 22 voting delegates were in attendance at the start of the meeting.

Guests

Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure, WALGA
Gemma Cook, Environment Policy Officer, WALGA
Cr Ned Radford and Cr Kevin Gale (observers), Shire of Kojonup

Apologies

WA Minister for Transport, Rita Saffioti	CEO Cameron Woods, Shire of Plantagenet
Rick Wilson, Member for O'Connor	Cr Michael White, Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup
Peter Rundle, MLA, Member for Roe	Cr Janine Phillips, Shire of Denmark
Cr Emma Doughty, City of Albany	Cr Keith House, Shire of Gnowangerup
Cr Michael White, Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup	Cr Jon Goodheart, Shire of Katanning
CEO Rick Mitchell-Collins, Shire of Kojonup	Cr Chris Pavlovich, Shire of Plantagenet
Cr Russel Thomson, Shire of Woodanilling	CEO David Schober, Shire of Denmark
CEO Natasha Monks, Great Southern Development Commission	
Jodie Holbrook, Dept of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries	
Cr Rob Lester, Cr Rex Parsons and CEO Martin Cuthbert left at 1.18pm after the presentations	

3. GUEST SPEAKERS

3.1 Joint Regional Road Group and Zone discussion about forming a Great Southern Roads Statement Working Group 6-8 members including technical people and works managers.

Cr Handasyde gave an overview of reasons for roads statement.
RDA Great Southern toured the Great Southern region after COVID-19 and found that the road and rail networks needed attention. RDS Great Southern will support the process and can contribute some funds.
Working Group members nominated were:-

- Cr Len Handasyde, Shire of Plantagenet
- Cr Mark Paganoni, Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup
- Cr Keith House, Shire of Gnowangerup
- David King, Executive Director, Shire of Denmark
- Damon Lawrence, Manager Operations, City of Albany
- Steve Gash, CEO Shire of Woodanilling
- RDA Great Southern - Andrus Butrikis or Simon Lyas

Can co-opt other members as required.

ACTION: Cr Handasyde, Cr Fleay and Zone Executive Officer to coordinate first meeting.

3.2 RDA Great Southern Update

Andrus Budrikis, Chairman, RDA Great Southern

Overview of RDAGS activities

Regional Development Australia (RDA) is a national network of Committees made up of local leaders who work with all levels of government, business and community groups to support the economic development of their regions.

RDA Committees have an active and facilitative role in their communities with a clear focus on growing strong and confident regional economies which harness their competitive advantages, seize economic opportunities and attract investment.

Collaborating with other RDA Committees, all levels of government, and the private sector,

RDA Committees will:

- a) Facilitate regional economic development outcomes, investment, local procurement and jobs.
- b) Promote greater regional awareness of and engagement with Australian Government policies, grant programs and research.
- c) Improve Commonwealth regional policymaking by providing intelligence and evidence based advice to the Australian Government on regional development issues.
- d) Co-ordinate the development of a strategic regional plan, or work with suitable existing regional plans that will align with the Commonwealth's regional priorities.

Current projects include the Regional University Centre, the Digital Capacity Audit, assisting the Regional Road Group, supporting agribusiness and regional infrastructure initiatives.

Coordinate with existing regional plans which will align with Federal Government priorities.

Federal Government sees RDAs as a good network to get feedback from around Australia on the economic strengths, gaps and opportunities in regions.

Infrastructure Australia has been gathering facts through RDA groups. Consultant WSP will engage with councils and other stakeholders across Australia to identify 3-5 key gaps per region. Great Southern region will be consulted on 11 June 2021 via an online workshop. Paper to be launched by August 2021. People who have nominated will be notified by the consultant.

Mike Eastman – Director Great Southern Regional Universities Centre (GSUC) or Regional University Centre (RUC)

Any tertiary student in the region who is studying any university course online can use the RUC facilities in the Co-op Building in Albany. Highly qualified study coordinator has been appointed. Mike Eastman is keen to engage with Great Southern councils or via CRC's.

3.3 Katina Bowie, NBN Co - \$300 million Regional Co-Investment Fund

Video conference unable to be connected. Presentation to be held over to future Zone meeting.

3.4 Olivia Birkett, Chief Operating Officer, Tennis West

New Strategic Plan and the Thriving Tennis Community pillars

Key points:

- Auditing tennis facilities across the state.
- Eight pillars of a thriving tennis community.
- Refer to powerpoint presentation attached.

~~3.5 Dept of Planning, Lands and Heritage~~ overview of the process to establish the Noongar Land Estate to a large number of LGAs in the South West Native Title Settlement area.
CANCELLED - the Department of the Premier and Cabinet will work with WALGA to arrange a separate comprehensive briefing.

ACTION: Executive Officer to follow up with DPLH about dates and locations of briefings.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

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

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – ZONE AND WALGA STATE COUNCIL

5.1 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY ZONE MEETING – 19 February 2021

MOVED Cr Dale Douglas

SECONDED Cr John Benn

That the minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Great Southern Zone of the WALGA held on Friday 19 February 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

CARRIED 12-0

5.2 MINUTES OF THE WALGA STATE COUNCIL MEETING – 3 March 2021

MOVED Cr Dale Douglas

SECONDED Cr John Benn

That the Minutes of meeting of the State Council of WALGA held on 3 March 2021 be received.

CARRIED 12-0

6. WALGA UPDATES & REVIEW OF WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA – 5 May 2021

6.1 Status Report from WALGA to the Zone

Refer to attached report dated April 2021. Taken as read. No discussion.

6.2 WALGA State Council President's Report - Mayor Tracey Roberts JP

Refer to attached report dated May 2021. Taken as read. No discussion.

6.3 State Council Representative's Report - Cr Ronnie Fleay

Refer to attached report.

6.4 Matters for Decision – Zone consideration required

Consideration of the May 2021 WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Decision.

MOVED Cr Dale Douglas

SECONDED Cr Mark Paganoni

That the Great Southern Zone supports the recommendations for Matters for Decision Items 5.1 to 5.4 in the May 2021 WALGA State Council Agenda.

CARRIED 12-0

6.5 Matters for Noting – for Zone information

MOVED Cr John Benn

SECONDED Cr Fiona Gaze

That the Great Southern Zone notes the Matters for Noting / Information Items 6.1 to 6.4 in the May 2021 WALGA State Council Agenda.

CARRIED 12-0

6.6 State Council Status Report

Received. No discussion.

7. ACTION REGISTER

7.1 **Action Register** - updated document attached.

8. KEY STRATEGIC ZONE ISSUES FOR 2020

8.1 **Key Strategic Zone Issues Register** - updated document attached.

GUEST SPEAKERS AT 2021 MEETINGS - LINKED TO KEY STRATEGIC ZONE ISSUES

Councils to decide which Ministers, Politicians, Directors General and other speakers they wish to attend Zone meetings in 2021.

Zone meeting dates	Guest Speakers
Friday 25 June 2021	<p>Minister for Local Government and Housing John Carey.</p> <p>Key issues to discuss:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Massive social housing problem and homelessness in the Great Southern.• How many housing commission houses are vacant in each Great Southern town?• Need his perspective on private housing and getting blocks developed.• Key worker accommodation. Quality of housing is falling behind to attract key workers and GROH. Housing shortage even though we've built 52 new well-aged houses across the Great Southern. <p>OR</p> <p>Great Southern delegation to speak with Minister at Local Government Convention in early August 2021.</p> <p>Alternative option for presenters regarding mobile communications issues:- Telstra - Boyd Brown Nbnco - Katina Bowie DPIRD - Penny Griffin – independent research Rick Wilson MP</p>
Friday 20 August 2021	As above, depending on availability.
Monday 25 October 2021 (Joint meeting with Great Southern Regional Road Group)	Minister Rita Saffioti Forest Industries Federation WA

Outstanding or suggested speakers

- Invite State Government Ministers and Directors General after March 2021 State Election.
- Ben Headlam, Palmerston Services Great Southern – drug and alcohol issues in the region and COVID-19 impact. Also, lack of rehabilitation centre in the region.
- Forest Industries Federation WA - briefing on the timber industry in WA and particularly regarding the South West Timber Hub, noting that forestry is a significant industry in the Great Southern.

- Presentation by Office of the Auditor General.
Subject: Update on local government auditing so far and look at a few of OAG's recent Local Government financial and performance audits. Include issues raised by CEO Julian Murphy and Cr Rob Lester.

9. ZONE BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 GREAT SOUTHERN ROADS STATEMENT – All Councils

Workshop held on Friday 5 March 2021 in Tambellup. Notes of the workshop and the opening address by Great Southern Regional Road Group Chair, Cr Len Handasyde, are attached.

A working group has been formed to progress a Great Southern Roads Statement.

ACTION: Cr Handasyde, Cr Fleay and Executive Officer to coordinate the first working group meeting.

9.2 TELECOMMUNICATION FAILURE AND IMPACT ON REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

Shire of Plantagenet

Background

Regional telecommunication reliability is essential in saving lives in the case of emergency events as well as enabling economic and community development through the attraction of people to regional communities and enabling businesses to operate and prosper.

Comment

During peak holiday periods such as Christmas and Easter in the Shire of Plantagenet, the community experiences mobile phone and internet outages due to increased demand for mobile and internet services. Whilst this is an enormous issue for small businesses which rely on these services to meet customer expectations, it is also a risk to community safety at the very period when we have more people in our regions without the ability to connect to essential services in the case of an emergency.

Financial Implications

Cost to business is significant during these peak visitor periods.

Cost to life could be catastrophic

The opportunity cost to those regions which cannot attract residents who are looking to leave the metropolitan areas, due to poor and unreliable mobile and internet, is major.

Discussion points

Essentially, there are capacity issues.

Plenty of faults in the Plantagenet area.

Complaints are made to Telstra but they are not doing anything.

Ian Duncan advised the Zone to acquire data from Telstra about upgrade to towers, new towers, emergency plans for towers which lack capacity from Telstra before the Zone meets with communication parties. Can get more independent data from Penny Griffin from DPIRD.

Cr Benson suggested, prior to Federal Election next year, advocating to Rick Wilson once data is acquired. Mark Paganoni and Bob Jarvis advised of communications survey involving their local residents.

Cr Liz Guidera and Julian Murphy left the meeting at 2.17pm, leaving 11 voting delegates.

MOVED Cr Handasyde

SECONDED Cr Gaze

That the Great Southern Zone of WALGA advocates for the identification and immediate upgrade of those regional telecommunication facilities that are failing to meet the increased demand and minimum standards to ensure community safety.

CARRIED 11-0

RDA Great Southern has commissioned a comprehensive audit of communications in the Great Southern. Dr John Gates did the survey and 6 councils including BT, Cranbrook, and Gnowangerup surveyed their residents and gave the comments to Dr Gates.

Bob Jarvis asked that consultants meet the people who are affected by poor communications in communities such as Borden and Ongerup.

Andrus Butrikis said that once the draft report is released, he thought it would be appropriate to circulate it through Local Government Authorities.

Mark Paganoni said people needed coverage with the capacity, not so much fast speeds.

ACTION: Zone to liaise with WALGA and RDA Great Southern about sourcing communications data.

9.3 **AFFORDABLE HOUSING MARKET FAILURE DUE TO THE COST OF HEADWORK CHARGES** - Shire of Plantagenet

Background

Affordable housing options in regional communities are in short supply despite the increased demand post the COVID-19 pandemic. In many regional communities like the Shire of Plantagenet, land values are cheaper than that in regional centres and coastal lifestyle communities. For private investors to develop residential land in these communities, they require a return on investment to warrant the associated development costs such as power, water, sewer and civis. The State Government headworks charges for these essential services are very expensive and act as a disincentive for private property developers, leading to a market failure in housing provision for low and middle income earners.

Comment

In June 2020, the State announced a \$444 million housing stimulus package to build and maintain social housing across the state. This included a regional and remote housing implementation plan and a target of providing another 2,600 social homes over the next 10 years in Western Australia.

If the State Government was to work with Local Governments and agree to reduce headworks charges in specific regional communities requiring an increased supply of affordable housing, the private sector could be stimulated to supply much of this demand and reduce the need for additional social housing.

Financial Implications

There is a potential for the State Government to reduce the cost of social housing and to attract and keep people in regional communities through a strategic approach in the discounted provision of headworks charges for affordable housing.

MOVED Cr Len Handasyde

SECONDED Cr Fiona Gaze

That the Great Southern Zone of WALGA invites the Housing Minister and the Great Southern Development Commission to the June meeting to advocate for a reduction in the essential headworks charges for small regional communities to enable the provision of affordable housing.

CARRIED 11-0

10. EMERGING ISSUES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Only urgent emerging issues were to be raised by councils due to tight timeframe for this meeting.

10.1 Keith Williams advised that the Shire of Gnowangerup was the fifth member to join the Southern Link VROC. The Shire of Katanning will be the sixth member to join in the near future.

11. FINANCIAL REPORT

11.1 Financial Report for the period 1 February to 31 March 2021 is attached.

Opening balance as at 1 February 2021	\$8,967.54
Total debits	(\$2,911.16)
Total credits	0
Closing balance as at 31 March 2021	\$6,056.38

MOVED Cr Jon Oldfield

SECONDED Cr Scott Crosby

That the financial statements for the periods 1 February to 31 March 2021 be accepted as true and accurate records of the Zone's finances.

CARRIED 11-0

12. REPORTS

No	Organisation / Delegates	Updates / Info
12.1	Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG) Delegate: Cr Russel Thomson (Shire of Woodanilling) Proxy: Cr Scott Crosby (Shire of Kent)	No April meeting held. Next meeting due on 9 July 2021. <i>Ongoing issue - Movement of Agricultural Machinery.</i>
12.2	Great Southern District Leadership Group (formerly Great Southern Human Services Forum)	Waiting for response from Margaret Collard about another delegate to represent Local Government. Stephen Gash registered his interested in representing Local Government on this group.
12.3	Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) – CEO Keith Williams	
12.4	South Coast Natural Resource Management (SCNRM) Delegate: CEO Keith Williams Proxy: Cr Jon Oldfield (Plantagenet)	SCNRM has community meetings but no formal meetings.
12.5	Great Southern Development Commission	No report.
12.6	Great Southern RoadWise	WALGA is currently trying to recruit a new Road Safety Advisor for the Great Southern.
12.7	Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries	Director General Duncan Ord's report emailed direct to councils.
12.8	Executive Officer	Nothing to report.

13. Remaining Zone meetings for 2021

Friday 25 June

Friday 20 August

Monday 25 October

Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup (1-day mini conference)

Shire of Cranbrook

Shire of Plantagenet (Mt Barker)

(Joint meeting with Regional Road Group)

(AGM and ordinary meeting)

Close: 2.33pm.