

Northern Country Zone MINUTES

24 February 2025

**Hosted by the Shire of Northampton
Allen Centre 70 Grey St Kalbarri
commenced at 10:06am**



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ATTACHMENTS TO THE AGENDA

- Item 3.1: Aboriginal Heritage Act Presentation
- Item 3.2: Skilled Visa and DAMA Presentation
- Item:3.3 Shire of Northampton Presentation
- Item 6.0: Minutes of the Meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA 25 November 2024
- Item 7.0/8.0: WALGA State Council Agenda 5 March 2025
- Item 9.3: WALGA President's Report March 2025
- Item 9.5: RDA Mid West-Gascoyne Report February 2025
- Item 10.2: Nov/Dec 2024, Jan 2025 Bank Statements
- Item 10.3: MRWA Operational Procedure 113: Operational Boundaries and Asset Maintenance Responsibilities, Rural Regions

The Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework shown below, adopted 22 April 2024, was used to guide Zone Delegates' decision making.

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

1. OPENING, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1.1 Opening

The Meeting was declared open at 10:06 am.

1.2 Acknowledgment of Country

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA acknowledges the Yamatji people, who are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today and pays its respects to their Elders past and present.

1.3 Welcome

The President welcomed members and guests, including Hon. Melissa Price MP; Mr Nick Sloan, WALGA CEO; Ms Lisa Harwood, WALGA Principal Policy Advisor, Economic Development; Ms Kym Suckling, Department of Planning Lands and Heritage, Ms Kristi Carlile and Ms Lise Williams of Department of Training and Workforce Development and Mr Shaun Burress, Department of Home Affairs.

The President thanked the Shire of Northampton for their initiative in organising the pre-meeting activities – dinner Sunday night with a presentation from Melissa Finlay regarding her families experience with Cyclone Seroja and the bus tour which was very informative.

1.4 Announcements

We welcomed two new Chief Executive Officers – Mr Mike Cole, Shire of Morawa and Mr Tim Clynych, Shire of Carnamah.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

MEMBERS

NB: One Voting Delegate from each Member Council

Shire of Carnamah	Mr Tim Clynych - Chief Executive Officer - Proxy
Shire of Chapman Valley	Cr Nicole Batten - Proxy Mr Jamie Criddle - Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Coorow	Ms Mia Maxfield - Chief Executive Officer - Proxy
City of Greater Geraldton	Mayor Jerry Clune Mr Ross McKim - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Irwin	Nil Attendees
Shire of Mingenew	Cr Gary Cosgrove - President Cr Hellene McTaggart Mr Matt Fanning - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Morawa	Cr Karen Chappel - President (NCZ President) Mr Mike Cole - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Northampton Cr Elizabeth (Liz) Sudlow - President (State Council Deputy Rep)
Mr Andrew Campbell - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Perenjori Nil Attendees

Shire of Three Springs Nil Attendees

EXECUTIVE Ms Dianne Daniels - Executive Officer
Mr Nick Sloan - Chief Executive Officer WALGA
Ms Lisa Harwood - Principal Policy Advisor Economic Development

INVITED GUESTS

Federal Member for Durack Hon. Melissa Price MP
Ms Leanne Thurston – Electorate Officer

Regional Development Mid West Gascoyne Mr Mark Holdsworth – Director of Regional Development/Executive Officer

PRESENTERS

Dept of Planning, Lands and Heritage Ms Kym Suckling - Assistant Manager, Partnerships and Agreements - Heritage and Property Services

Dept of Training and Workforce Development Ms Kristi Carlile - A/Associate Director, Migration Services
Ms Lise Williams - Manager Migration Initiatives, Construction Migration Office

Department of Home Affairs Mr Shaun Burrell - Business, Industry and Regional Outreach Officer

APOLOGIES

Shire of Carnamah Cr Merle Isbister - President
Cr Dwayne Woollorton - Deputy President

Shire of Chapman Valley Cr Kirrilee Warr - President

Shire of Coorow Cr Guy Sims - President

Shire of Irwin Cr Isabelle Scott
Cr Mark Leonard - President
Mr Shane Ivers – Chief Executive Officer

Shire of Northampton Cr Robert Horstman - Deputy President

Shire of Perenjori Cr Jude Sutherland - President
Cr Leslie Hepworth - Deputy President
Mr Paul Anderson - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Three Springs	Cr Chris Lane - President Cr Nadine Eva - Deputy President Mr Keith Woodward - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Member for Moore	Mr Shane Love MLA
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Colin De Grussa MLC
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Darren West MLC
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Sandra Carr MLC
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Shelley Payne MLC
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon Steve Martin MLC
CBH	Ms Kellie Todman – Manager Govt & Industry Relations
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Mr Mark Bowen - Superintendent Midwest Gascoyne Region
Dept of Local Gov Sport and Cultural Ind	Mr Craig Vinci - Acting Regional Manager Mid West Gascoyne
Main Roads WA	Ms Janet Hartley-West - Regional Director Mid West-Gascoyne Ms Louise Adamson - Acting Director Mid West-Gascoyne
Mid West Development Commission	Mr Nils Hay - Chief Executive Officer Mr Peter Spalding - Director Regional Development

3. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Department of Planning Lands & Heritage

Attachment: Aboriginal Heritage Act Presentation

Ms Kym Suckling Assistant Manager, Partnerships and Agreements – Heritage and Property Services

A presentation on the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 and 2023 Amendments.

Ms Kym Suckling, Assistant Manager, Partnerships and Agreements delivered the Presentation, but the Regional Director Midwest Gascoyne Heritage and Property Services, Mr Dan Oswald, had asked that this introduction to him and his team be included for the information of members:

As an introduction, I am the Regional Director for the Midwest, Murchison, Gascoyne Region for Dept. Planning, Lands and Heritage – Heritage and Property division. My primary role is in Aboriginal Heritage in Regional WA.

My team and I are based in Geraldton but cover the country to the north up to Exmouth, east out to Kumarina, south down to Dalwallinu and west to Leeman – and all of the locations captured between.

Our role in the Region is to work with the Traditional Owners, Community, Proponents and land owner groups, to assist in advice on the requirement for approvals, how to complete Regulation 7 and 10's and Section 18 approvals, review activity progress and form a 'conduit' with traditional owners for the protection, preservation and identification of Aboriginal Heritage locations across the State.

Any question, query, concern, requirement to assist in deciphering works on land and what approvals may be needed, what heritage is known on the properties and what this means for the land owner and how do we check.

The Department has an online portal in which a proponent can seek advice, make application for approval, report harm and check sites, the ACHknowledge portal.

[External link - ACHknowledge Portal](#)

The Department also hosts an online mapping tool, the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System (ACHIS), where you can check for the presence of recorded Aboriginal heritage, surveys and associated information.

<https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/ACHIS/index.html?viewer=ACHIS>

The Aboriginal heritage legislation, Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (AHA) and the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 1974 (AHR), outlines the required approvals.

There are four types of authorisations: [Aboriginal Heritage Approvals \(www.wa.gov.au\)](http://www.wa.gov.au)

- 1. **Section 18 consent** – for more significant impacts and harm to Aboriginal sites*
- 2. **Section 16 authorisation** – for excavation purposes (generally related to research)*
- 3. **Regulation 7 approval** – to bring plant and equipment to an Aboriginal site*
- 4. **Regulation 10 consent** – for more minor activities and impact*

My team and I are happy to engage and assist you and the Pastoralists with any question, query or advice that is required related to the governing legislation and approvals process and procedure associated with your proposed activities.

Kind regards,

□

Dan Oswald

Regional Director - Midwest Gascoyne | Heritage and Property Services

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage

45 Cathedral Avenue, Geraldton WA 6530

W: wa.gov.au/dplh | P: 6552 4521 | M: 0436 530 342

3.2 Department of Training & Workforce Development

Attachment: Skilled Visa and DAMA Presentation

Ms Kristi Carlile	A/Associate Director, Migration Services
Ms Lise Williams	Manager Migration Initiatives, Construction Migration Office
Mr Shaun Burress	Business, Industry and Regional Outreach Officer (Dept of Home Affairs)

A presentation on the Skilled Visa and Designated Area Migration Agreement

3.3 **Shire of Northampton**

Attachment: *Shire of Northampton Presentation*

Cr Liz Sudlow President
Mr Andrew Campbell Chief Executive Officer

A presentation on projects recently completed, underway and planned and challenges being faced by the Shire.

The presentation was interrupted to give the Hon Melissa Price MP the opportunity to address the meeting, as she had another engagement. She addressed members and guests, noting that she was a strong advocate for local government.

4. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Nil

5. **ADJOURNED BUSINESS**

Nil

6. **MINUTES**

Attachments: *Minutes of the Meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA 25 November 2024*

6.1 **Confirmation of Minutes**

Recommendation:
That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 25 November 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:	
Moved: Cr Sudlow	Seconded: Cr Cosgrove
That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 25 November 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.	
Carried	

6.2 **Business Arising from Minutes**

Nil

7. **STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION**

The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 5 March 2025.
The Matter for Decision in the State Council agenda are numbered 8.1 and 8.2.

The WALGA Officer's Recommendation and Executive Summary only have been included below. Please refer to the attached PDF version of the State Council Agenda for more detail.

7.1 (SC 8.1) Climate Change Advocacy Position

Prepared by: Jade Mains, Senior Policy Advisor Environment

WALGA Recommendation:

That State Council replace the 2018 Climate Change Policy Statement Advocacy Position 4.1 Climate Change with the following advocacy position:

Climate Change significantly impacts Local Governments' operations and responsibilities, as well as their communities.

Local Government is committed to taking climate action, including by:

- *reducing operational emissions in line with Australian and Western Australian Government 2050 net zero targets*
- *providing leadership and support to their communities to reduce carbon emissions*
- *embedding climate risk management into their operations to enhance adaptation and build community resilience to the impacts of climate change*
- *working with other levels of Government and key stakeholders to ensure policy and on-ground programs are effective, equitable and targeted.*

WALGA calls on the Australian and Western Australian Governments to provide the necessary climate leadership, coordination, and action to:

1. *Ensure Australia and Western Australia meet net zero emissions targets through:*
 - a. *enacting legislation which sets clear, measurable targets for emission reduction*
 - b. *developing and funding coordinated emissions reduction policies, guidance and programs*
 - c. *acknowledging the role of Local Government as an implementation partner in emissions reduction policy and planning.*
2. *Empower Local Government to accelerate adaptation and build resilience in their communities through:*
 - a. *ensuring the roles and responsibilities set out under the Council of Australian Governments Roles and Responsibilities for Climate Change Adaptation in Australia are implemented and adequately resourced*
 - b. *providing up to date, consistent and accessible data to enable evidence-based decision making and investment*
 - c. *developing national guidance on adaptation responses to facilitate coordinated and equitable planning and implementation.*
3. *Provide funding and resources and support to Local Government to enable on-ground implementation, including for:*
 - a. *the implementation of the Regional Climate Alliance Program across Western Australia*
 - b. *the establishment and maintenance of corporate emission inventories and action plans*
 - c. *providing transformational investment to facilitate emission reduction activities*
 - d. *undertaking climate risk assessments and the development of adaptation action plans*
 - e. *a dedicated adaptation fund to address localised climate risks and build climate resilience.*

Executive Summary:

- WALGA's current climate change [Policy Statement](#) and [Advocacy Position](#) were endorsed by State Council in 2018.
- There have been significant legislative and policy changes at both the Australian and State Government level since that time. The impacts of climate change are also being increasingly felt

across Western Australia, putting Local Government in a challenging position with limited resources and support to mitigate emissions and adapt.

- Feedback from the sector through climate surveys, undertaken every two years, and targeted consultation confirms that significant resourcing and funding gaps exist for Local Government to effectively respond to climate change.
- The updated Advocacy Position focuses on the urgency and scale of climate impacts and calls for a comprehensive framework, and action, to enable Local Government to manage the impacts of climate change and build resilient communities.
- The Environment Policy Team endorsed the Advocacy Position at their 11 December 2024 meeting.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Cosgrove

Seconded: Cr Batten

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA supports the WALGA Officers' recommendation for Item 8.1 in the 5 March 2025 State Council Agenda.

Carried

7.2 (SC 8.2) Waste Management Legislation Advocacy Position

Prepared by: Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager Environment and Waste

WALGA Recommendation:

That State Council replace the Waste Management Legislation Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 7.1 Waste Management Legislation with the following advocacy position:

1. *Local Government supports Australian and State Government waste management legislation which:*
 - a. *includes requirements for national and state waste strategies which support Local Governments to implement the strategies and achieve targets*
 - b. *focuses on coordinated action and clear roles and responsibilities*
 - c. *establishes a lead agency for waste management*
 - d. *establishes and maintains a regulated product stewardship framework for all products entering the Australian market*
 - e. *includes provisions to optimise market development and participation in waste processing.*
2. *Local Government calls for the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007 to be amended to include:*
 - a. *Waste education in the definition of Waste Services*
 - b. *Circular Economy principles.*

Executive Summary:

- WALGA's current [Waste Management Legislation Policy Statement](#) and [Advocacy Position](#) were adopted in 2004.
- The Policy Statement outlines Local Government's position on waste management legislation in Western Australia and sets out the key objectives waste management legislation should achieve.
- WALGA used the Waste Management Policy Statement to inform advocacy on the development, and reviews, of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* (WARR Act).
- The current Advocacy Position, and many of the elements in the policy statement, are no longer relevant as they have been achieved.
- The revised Advocacy Position focuses on both Australian and State Government legislation and reflects the shift in focus from traditional waste management towards a circular economy approach.
- The Municipal Waste Advisory Council endorsed the new Advocacy Position at its meeting on 11 December 2024.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:**Moved:** Cr Cosgrove**Seconded:** Cr Sudlow

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA supports the WALGA Officers' recommendation for Item 8.2 in the 5 March 2025 State Council Agenda.

Carried

8. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA – MATTERS FOR NOTING

Please refer to Items 9 through to 11 of the 5 March 2025 State Council Agenda for details of the following Policy Team and Committee Reports.

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes State Council Agenda Items 9 through to 11 as detailed in the 5 March 2025 State Council Agenda.

8.1 (SC 9.0) Policy Team and Committee Reports

- Item 9.1 SC Agenda - Infrastructure Policy Team Report
- Item 9.2 SC Agenda - People and Place Policy Team Report
- Item 9.3 SC Agenda - Governance Policy Team Report
- Item 9.4 SC Agenda - Environment Policy Team Report
- Item 9.5 SC Agenda - Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report

8.2 (SC 10.0) Matters For Noting / Information

- Item 10.1 SC Agenda - 2025 Federal Election
- Item 10.2 SC Agenda - 2025 State Election
- Item 10.3 SC Agenda - Large Scale Renewable Energy Update
- Item 10.4 SC Agenda - 2024 CoastWA Local Government Survey
- Item 10.5 SC Agenda - Polyphagous Shot-hole Borer Update
- Item 10.6 SC Agenda - December 2024 Economic Briefing
- Item 10.7 SC Agenda - Flying Minute Submission on the productivity Inquiry – Opportunities in the Circular Economy

8.3 (SC 11.0) Organisation Reports For Noting

- Item 11.1 SC Agenda - Key Activity Reports
 - Item 11.1.1 - Advocacy Portfolio
 - Item 11.1.2 - Infrastructure Portfolio
 - Item 11.1.3 - Member Services Portfolio
 - Item 11.1.4 - Policy Portfolio
- Item 11.2 SC Agenda - President's Report
- Item 11.3 SC Agenda - CEO's Report

Northern Country Zone Resolution:**Moved:** Cr Batten**Seconded:** Cr Sudlow

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes State Council Agenda Items 9 through to 11 as detailed in the 5 March 2025 State Council Agenda, but requests that, at item 9.1 2c of the Recommendation, WALGA further consults with the sector before deleting the fourth dot point in Advocacy Position 5.2.7. *"...the retention of WA's Default Open Speed Limit at 110 km per hour and opposes the proposed reduction to 100 km per hour..."*

Carried

9. REPORTS

9.1 Zone President's Report

Refer to the WALGA President's Report.

Items 9.2 and 9.3 were considered En Bloc

9.2 WALGA State Council Report

CEO Nick Sloan updated members on the activities at WALGA over the last months including running an advocacy campaign coming up to the WA State Election - a booklet, The West at its Best, is WALGA's 2025 State Election priorities document, presenting initiatives and solutions to keep the state running at its best.

Attention has now turned to the Federal Election and another advocacy document has been published to promote election priorities at the Federal level – WALGA's 2025 Federal Election Priorities.

9.3 WALGA President's Report

The WALGA President's Report is attached.

CEO Nick Sloan spoke to the President's Report.

Cr Chappel encouraged members to attend the Aboriginal Engagement Forum on Wed 9 April 2025 and the Honours Gala event on 19 July 2025.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Cosgrove

Seconded: Cr Sudlow

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the WALGA State Council update at Item 9.2 and the WALGA President's Report for March 2025 at Item 9.3.

Carried

9.4 Zone Status Report

The Status Report outlining actions taken on the Zone's resolutions had all issues finalised in November 2024.

9.5 RDA Mid West Gascoyne Report

A Report summarising RDA activities in the Mid West-Gascoyne, is attached. Mr Mark Holdsworth was happy for it to be taken as read.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Batten

Seconded: Cr Sudlow

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the RDA Mid West-Gascoyne Report for February 2025.

Carried

9.6 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Update

The update from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries was delayed due to the Caretaker period and will be issued once all required approvals are in place.

10. ZONE MATTERS FOR NOTING/DECISION

10.1 Correspondence

10.1.1 Correspondence Out

Nil

10.1.2 Correspondence In

Nil

10.2 Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 31 January 2025

Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer

Attachments: Bank Statements Nov/Dec 2024, Jan 2025

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 January 2025.

Comments:

The Detailed Income Statement shown below represents the cash position of NCZ at 31 January 2025, as reconciled to the Bank Statement.

NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

For the period ending

31-Jan-25

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Description</i>
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-24		9,813.37	
Deposits			18,000.00	2024-2025 Membership Subscriptions x 10
			0.92	Interest Earned
TOTAL RECEIPTS			18,000.92	
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE			27,814.29	
Payments Made	18-07-24		-2,747.42	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 242501 - EO Services 25/04/2024 - 30/06/2024; Travel
	13-08-24		-875.00	Internet Tsf - Shire of Irwin - Inv 18436 - Reimburse Catering for 24 June 2024 NCZ Meeting
	13-08-24		-275.00	Internet Tsf - North Midlands Accounting - Inv 2025-000048 - Audit Report 23-24
	29-08-24		-2,994.06	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 242502 - EO Services 01/07/2024 - 28/08/2024; Travel
	10-12-24		-784.00	Internet Bpay - Shire of Morawa - Inv 7860 - Reimburse Catering for 26 August 2024 NCZ Meeting
	10-12-24		-2,809.30	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 242503 - EO Services 29/08/2024 - 27/11/2024; Travel
	17-01-25		-947.68	Internet BPay - Shire of Mingenew - Inv 10728 - Reimburse Catering for 25 Novemeber 2024 NCZ Meeting
	24-01-25		-176.00	Internet Tsf - Norris & Hyde IT - Inv 61183 - Domain Name Renewal 5 Years - northerncountryzone.com.au
TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE			-11,608.46	
Closing Cash Balance	31-01-25		16,205.83	

NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA

BANK RECONCILIATION SUMMARY

For the period ending

31-Jan-25

Statement Balance B/F	01-07-24	9,813.37	
Deposits and Credits		18,000.92	
Cheques and Payments		-11,608.46	
Total Cleared Transactions	31-01-25	16,205.83	
Add back o/s		0.00	
Reconciled Balance		16,205.83	
Bank Statement	31-01-25	16,205.83	
Difference I&E to Bank Statement		0.00	

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Sudlow

Seconded: Cr Cosgrove

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 January 2025.

Carried

10.3 Draft Operational Procedure 113: Operational Boundaries And Asset Maintenance

Responsibilities: Rural Regions

Prepared by: Mark Bondietti, Policy Manager, Transport and Roads and
Max Bushell, Senior Policy Advisor, Road Safety and Infrastructure

Attachment: MRWA Operational Procedure 113: Operational Boundaries and Asset Management Responsibilities, Rural Regions

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA:

1. Notes Operational Procedure 113: Operational Boundaries and Asset Management Responsibilities, Rural Regions;
2. Notes that Local Governments may submit written feedback directly to WALGA for consideration;
3. Provides the following comments on Operational Procedure 113: Operational Boundaries and Asset Maintenance Responsibilities at the Zone Meeting;

- _____
- _____

Background:

WALGA has received a draft copy of the MRWA *Operational Procedure 113: Operational Boundaries and Asset Maintenance Responsibilities, Rural Regions* (OP 113) for review and comment. The purpose of OP 113 is to provide principles and practical guidance for determining how the responsibility for maintaining the different parts of highways and main roads is to be allocated between Main Roads and Local Governments. As such, the document provides essential guidance for the limits of maintenance responsibilities for Local Governments and will be relied on to resolve disputes between the parties. It is therefore of high importance and careful scrutiny is encouraged.

OP 113 will effectively supersede the *Operational Responsibility for Public Roads in Western Australia, 2009* (OP 2009) which was the result of extensive negotiations between Main Roads WA, IPWEA and WALGA and covered both Metropolitan and Regional scenarios. This document was never formally adopted but has nevertheless guided decision making over the years.

In 2019, *Operational Procedure 112: Operational Boundaries and Asset Responsibilities, Metropolitan Region* was published by Main Roads after consultation with Metropolitan Regional Road Groups and WALGA. Operational Procedure 112 and 113 draw heavily on the content of the 2009 document and will effectively supersede it.

The document outlines the limits of responsibilities in the following situations:

- Highways in Built Up Areas
- Highways in Rural Areas
- Bridges, Pathways, and Drainage Structures
- Stormwater Infrastructure
- Lighting
- Public Transport Facilities
- Roadside Facilities
- Signs & Traffic Control Devices
- Fences
- Graffiti
- Vegetation Control in Built Up Areas
- Vegetation Control in Rural Areas.

Indicative drawings are also provided, indicating limits of responsibility.

Comment:

The principles set out OP 2009 were broadly agreed by all parties at the time and WALGA has therefore reviewed OP 113 relative to OP 2009. Much of the text in OP 113 has been drawn directly from OP 2009 and the documents are in general alignment. However, WALGA has noted some discrepancies and concerns summarised below:

1. Introduction

Refers to additional works to be funded from the SRFLGA. Additional works are not defined, and any funding changes would be for SAC approval. WALGA recommends this principle be removed.

1.7 Maintenance Responsibility Guidelines

The draft OP 113 states that the “tangent point area” of a Local / State Road intersection will remain the responsibility of the LG. This principle was previously disputed and has not been tested. If the parties agree that Main Roads will maintain this area in accordance OP 113, then there is no necessity to include this statement.

Point (3) refers to funding for reseal works of the tangent area to be provided from the SRFLGA. Any changes to funding arrangements would be for SAC approval. For certain specified projects, funding could be allocated through Strategic Initiatives

2.1.4 & 2.2.5 Driveways

States that Main Roads is not responsible for the maintenance of private driveways. Main Roads is responsible for approvals and the private owner is responsible for maintenance. In built up areas Local Governments may be responsible to issue work permits. This clause needs to be expanded to confirm the role of Local Government.

2.5 Lighting

Add an additional section stating the costing arrangements as per OP 2009. In particular the principle that Main Roads will subsidise 50% of the installation, maintenance and operating cost when Local Governments install lighting on ordinary highways in built up areas.

2.6.2 Bus Passenger Facilities

Part (2) add "in accordance with the partnership agreement between WALGA and the PTA"

Figures 6,7,8,9,10,11,12 &13

The key to these figures states, "Main Roads Responsibility (resurfacing)", resurfacing to be replaced with "maintenance". According to the text and definitions, maintenance is defined as all works of any description required to keep the road serviceable, not just resurfacing.

NEXT STEPS:

Zones are requested to scrutinise OP 113 and provide feedback to WALGA in the following areas.

- Does current and desirable practice correspond to the principles outlined in the OP 113?
- Are there any areas of responsibility or principles not addressed in the OP 113?
- Do any of the proposed allocations of responsibility entail substantial budgetary impacts to Local Governments?
- Any additional concerns or comments.

Discussion at the Zone meeting is encouraged. Any written feedback should be provided by Friday, 28 February, to infrastructure@walga.asn.au.

This document and draft OP 113 have also been provided to all regional CEOs and Infrastructure Directors providing opportunity for feedback directly to WALGA.

Following the February 2025 round of Zone meetings, WALGA will collate all feedback and provide a consolidated submission back to Main Roads WA.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Mayor Clune

Seconded: Cr Cosgrove

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA:

1. Notes Operational Procedure 113: Operational Boundaries and Asset Management Responsibilities, Rural Regions;
2. Notes that Local Governments may submit written feedback directly to WALGA for consideration;
3. Provides the following comments on Operational Procedure 113: Operational Boundaries and Asset Maintenance Responsibilities at the Zone Meeting:
The following subjects in Operational Procedure 113 need to be scrutinised thoroughly to ensure responsibilities are clear and local government interests are protected:
 - a. The removal of Graffiti, including on underpasses;
 - b. Vegetation management;
 - c. Rubbish removal including tyres;
 - d. Removal of motor vehicle wrecks.

Carried

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

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 Call to Guests to Address the Meeting

The Hon Melissa Price MP and Mr Mark Holdsworth both had the opportunity to address members earlier in the meeting.

11.2 Regional Issues

Background:

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

Nil

11.3 Regional Tourism Initiatives

Background:

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

Nil

11.3 Other General Business

The President calls for Other General Business.

- Cr Gary Cosgrove brought members attention to two sections of Main Roads that are having extensive work undertaken, both of which were meant to be completed in October 2024, but the works are still underway. The delays have caused considerable angst to road users and there would obviously be a major cost blow-out on both jobs. President Chappel suggested that she broach the subject at the next meeting of SAC in a couple of weeks and it was generally agreed that was a good way forward.
- Mayor Jerry Clune thanked the Northern Country Zone for the support of the City's initiative to send a joint invitation to the Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Hon. Ms Sam Mostyn AC to visit Geraldton and the Mid West. The invitation was successful as Ms Mostyn visited Geraldton for two and a half days just recently and visited many attractions including the HMAS Sydney 11 Memorial, the Museum and a cray fish factory.

12. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Recommendation:

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA on Monday 28 April 2025 be held by Flying Agenda.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Mayor Clune

Seconded: Cr Sudlow

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA on Monday 28 April 2025 be held by Flying Agenda.

Carried/Lost

13. MEETING CLOSURE

The President thanked presenters and guests for attending and the Shire of Northampton for hosting the meeting, before declaring it closed at 12:25pm.